



Fact sheet

Date

5 March 2013

Calculating the recycling rate of aluminium cans

The Ordinance on Beverage Containers (BCO) of 5 July 2000 sets out a minimum recycling rate of 75% for glass, PET and aluminium beverage containers. If this recycling rate is not attained, the DETEC may introduce a deposit.

The FOEN commissions the Swiss Association for Environmentally Friendly Drinks Packaging (SVUG) to collect data on the sales of aluminium cans and calculates the recycling rate based on these and other collected data.

In 2011, 8,000 tonnes of aluminium cans were recycled. This equals a recycling rate of 91%.

Calculating the sales of aluminium cans

The sales of aluminium cans are calculated based on the quantity of returnable and non-returnable aluminium cans (measured in tonnes) sold in the Swiss market during a calendar year.

Every year, the FOEN commissions the SVUG to collect the following data from importers and producers that market beverages in Switzerland (except for milk and dairy products):

- The total quantity of beverages sold in hectolitres (hl)
- The percentage of reusable containers in the total quantity in hectolitres (hl)
- The percentage of non-returnable containers in the total quantity in hectolitres (hl) and the weight of the containers in kilograms (kg). This makes it possible to calculate the total tonnage of non-returnable beverage containers.

This data is used to calculate the sales of aluminium beverage containers in tonnes.

Calculating the quantity collected

Used aluminium cans are collected by municipalities and at recreational, business and many other events. The quantity collected is calculated based on reports from scrap merchants and on the following information:

- Scrap merchants report deliveries from municipal collection points and individual collection points. In some municipalities, aluminium and tinsplate are collected in the same bin.
- Every year, Carbotech calculates the percentage of aluminium in the mixed municipal collections (aluminium and tin cans) and the percentage of aluminium beverage containers in the aluminium collection fraction (aluminium cans and other aluminium waste). The quantity of collected aluminium beverage cans is calculated from the quantity of collected aluminium cans and the percentages calculated by Carbotech for the municipalities.

The quantity of collected aluminium cans is the tonnage of non-returnable aluminium cans that are collected during a calendar year in Switzerland.

Calculating the recycling rate

The recycling rate is the ratio of the quantity of recycled aluminium cans to the total sales of aluminium cans.

Aluminium can data in 2011 in tonnes	
Sales	8,800
Collection	8,000
Recycling rate %	91%

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