



www.blauer-engel.de/uz210

Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages

Environmentally conscious food and beverage enjoyment should also be possible on the go. The Blue Angel for resource-friendly reusable container systems sends a clear signal for sustainable consumption. The criteria include requirements for both the cup/container and the supplier. In particular, you - the serving companies - can help protect the environment and resources and help consumers on their way to a sustainable life.

Good practice: Deposit containers instead of disposable containers!

Disposable containers produce a lot of waste and have a high environmental impact due to their large volume. Therefore, always offer your customers their food or beverage in a deposit container if they want to take it away. Politely inform your customers about your reusable container system. And only provide a disposable container if this is expressly requested by the customer because every disposable container saved benefits the environment.

A lid for every pot

It is not just disposable containers that produce a lot of waste but also their disposable lids. Therefore, you must also offer your customers appropriate reusable lids for the deposit containers. Just like the deposit containers, the lids must also be made out of environmentally friendly materials. You can either also offer the lids for a deposit or alternatively sell them to your customers as individual lids.

Another good solution: Filling the customer's own cup or container

Some customers already use their own individual cups for their "coffee-to-go". This is great for the environment! The following is thus a requirement for the Blue Angel at all points of sale: you must fill the customer's own cup or container if they are hygienic. In this context, observe the hygiene sheet issued by the Food Federation Germany.¹

Everything has its price

Unnecessary disposable containers should also come with a "surcharge". Therefore, it is important to create incentives for beverages and food served in a deposit container or in the customer's own container. This can be achieved for

¹ Download in German at [Hygiene beim Umgang mit Mehrweg-Bechern, -Behältnissen und -Geschirr: Hinweise für Servicekräfte - Lebensmittelverband Deutschland \(Hygiene bei handling reusable cups, containers and crockery: Information for service personnel – Food Federation Germany\)](#)

instance by using a discount system or by levying an actual surcharge for beverages or food served in a disposable container. We recommend that you explain to the customer that this surcharge is a kind of “environmental surcharge” due to the high environmental impact of the disposable container.

Frequent use helps the environment!

The more often a container is used, the better it is for the environment! This is because every reused container saves one disposable container. To ensure that you know how often a deposit container has been used, it is important to calculate its circulation number. For this purpose, you or the provider of your reusable container system require information about the number of beverages or food served in the deposit container. We recommend that you assign your own registration number to beverages and food served in deposit containers in your cash register system. This will enable you to inform the provider of the reusable container system about the number of beverages or food served in the deposit containers and support the provider in preparing its statistics on the circulation numbers.

Please note: If you are concerned about passing on these figures to your provider of the reusable container system, you can also provide these figures for multiple locations (in the case of several food and beverage vending operations) or have them anonymously transmitted to your provider of the reusable container system via an independent third party.

Recycling at the end

To ensure that you act sustainably right up to the very end of their service lives, you are obligated to take back all deposit containers and, where relevant, deposit lids – even the damaged ones. These should then be returned to your provider of the reusable container system for recycling or you should recycle them yourself (as a provider of your own reusable container system).

Demonstrate that the environment is important to you

If you comply with all the rules listed here, you should also let people know about it: Use the “Blue Angel” advertising materials. Show your customers that the responsible use of our resources is important to you and that you are committed to serving beverages and/or food in an environmentally friendly way.

Less is more (only applies to cups)

The less waste the better: Therefore, deposit cups must not be provided with additional sleeves (e.g. as heat protection or advertising media).

September 2021