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Good Rules for Dispensing Hot Beverages

Environmentally conscious coffee enjoyment should also be possible on the go. The Blue Angel for resource-friendly reusable cup systems sends a clear signal for sustainable consumption. The criteria include requirements for both the cup 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 cups instead of disposable cups!

Disposable cups produce a lot of waste and have a high environmental impact due to their high volume. You should therefore always offer your customers their beverage in a deposit cup if they wish to take it away. Politely inform your customers about your reusable cup system. And only provide a disposable cup if this is expressly requested. Because every disposable cup saved benefits the environment.

A lid for every pot

Not only the disposable cups produce a lot of waste - the disposable lids do, too. Therefore, you must also offer your customers reusable lids in addition to the reusable cups. Like the deposit cups, the lids must be made of environmentally friendly materials. You can either offer the lids for a deposit or sell them to your customers as individual lids.

Also a good thing: Filling customers' own cups

Some customers are already using their own individual cups for their "coffee-to-go". It's great for the environment! Therefore, if the customer's own cups are hygienically in order, they must be filled by you. Please refer to the hygiene leaflet of the Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und Lebensmittelkunde e. V.¹

Everything has its price - even disposable cups

Unnecessary disposable plastic bags have almost become a phase-out model - thanks to a voluntary commitment of the retail trade: The number of bags handed out dropped by a third in 2017. And why is that? Because customers have to pay for the bags. Disposable cups should also have such a "surcharge". It is therefore important to create incentives for beverages served in a deposit cup or in the customer's own cup. This can be done for instance using a discount system, or by levying an actual surcharge for a beverage in a disposable cup. For this we recommend that you convey to your customers that this surcharge is a

¹ Download at <https://www.bl.de/download/merkblatt-coffee-to-go.pdf>

kind of "environmental charge" for the high environmental impact of the disposable cup, similar to the charge for disposable plastic bags.

Frequent use helps the environment!

The more often a cup is used, the better for the environment! Because every reused cup saves one disposable cup. And in order to know how often a deposit cup is used, it is important to determine its circulation figure. For this purpose, you or your reusable cup provider require information about the number of beverages served in the deposit cup. We recommend that you assign your own registration number to beverages served in the deposit cup in your cash register system. This way you can inform the reusable cup system provider of the number of deposit cup beverages served and support the provider in preparing its statistics on circulation figures.

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

Less is more

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

Recycling at the end

In order to act sustainably until the very end, you commit to take back all deposit cups and, if necessary, also deposit lids, including damaged ones. You then either return them to your reusable cup system provider or you recycle them yourself (as a supplier of your own reusable cup system).

Last but not least: Show that the environment is important to you

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

August 2019