

(Effective until March 1, 2022)

WAC 246-215-04650 Methods—Returnables, cleaning for refilling (2009 FDA Food Code 4-603.17). (1) Except as specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, returned empty containers intended for cleaning and refilling with FOOD must be cleaned and refilled in a regulated FOOD PROCESSING PLANT.

(2) A FOOD-specific container for BEVERAGES may be refilled at a FOOD ESTABLISHMENT if:

(a) Only a BEVERAGE that is not a POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOOD is used as specified under WAC 246-215-03348(1);

(b) The design of the container and of the rinsing EQUIPMENT and the nature of the BEVERAGE, when considered together, allow effective cleaning at home or in the FOOD ESTABLISHMENT;

(c) Facilities for rinsing before refilling returned containers with fresh, hot water that is under pressure and not recirculated are provided as part of the dispensing system;

(d) The CONSUMER-owned container returned to the FOOD ESTABLISHMENT for refilling is refilled for sale or service only to the same CONSUMER; and

(e) The container is refilled by:

(i) An EMPLOYEE of the FOOD ESTABLISHMENT; or

(ii) The owner of the container if the BEVERAGE system includes a contamination-free transfer process that cannot be bypassed by the container owner.

(3) CONSUMER-owned containers that are not FOOD-specific may be filled at a water VENDING MACHINE or system.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050 and 43.20.145. WSR 13-03-109, § 246-215-04650, filed 1/17/13, effective 5/1/13.]