

FAQ for RVM Suppliers

Certification Scope

Can smart bins be certified under the UK DRS RVM Certification Programme?

No. Smart bins are not included within the scope of the UK DRS RVM Certification Programme.

The UK DRS RVM Certification Standard applies to Reverse Vending Machines that meet the requirements of the UK DRS RVM Specification. RVMs are required to process accepted containers and include container processing and anti-reuse functionality.

Smart bins or collection devices that do not provide the required container processing capabilities are not within the scope of certification.

Do we need to certify every RVM model?

No. Suppliers may propose representative models for assessment. Where multiple RVM models share substantially the same hardware architecture, software platform, firmware, recognition technology, container processing system and core functionality, PPS may determine that assessment of a representative model provides sufficient evidence to support certification of a wider product family.

How many models can be assessed under the funded programme?

The funded certification programme covers assessment of up to three representative RVM models per supplier. Assessment of additional models or variants may require additional assessment activities and may be undertaken at the supplier's cost.

Assessment Booking & Prioritisation

Is assessment scheduling first come, first served?

No. During the initial phase of the programme, PPS will work with Exchange for Change to schedule assessments in support of UK DRS implementation requirements.

Assessment scheduling will consider supplier readiness, certification scope, anticipated deployment requirements and programme needs whilst maintaining a fair and consistent process for all suppliers.

Will large suppliers be prioritised?

Assessment scheduling will be agreed with Exchange for Change and will take account of multiple factors, including supplier readiness, certification scope and deployment requirements. Certification decisions themselves are made using the same Certification Standard and assessment framework for all suppliers.

When should we submit an assessment request?

Suppliers are asked to ensure that their RVMs, supporting documentation and certification evidence are genuinely ready before requesting assessment. Well-prepared assessments help reduce delays and minimise the likelihood of reassessment.

Assessments

What requirements are certification assessments conducted against?

Certification assessments are conducted against the requirements defined within the UK DRS Reverse Vending Machine Certification Standard.

The Standard contains 77 Certification Requirements across a range of categories including:

- Container Recognition
- Container Management
- Container Processing
- Fraud Prevention
- Connectivity & Availability
- Integration
- Consumer Usage & Accessibility
- Deposit Repayment
- Data Management
- Operation
- Safety

Requirements are assessed through a combination of:

- Functional Test Scenarios
- Documentation Reviews
- Demonstrations
- Certification Evidence Reviews
- Operational Monitoring
- Future Capability Reviews

Suppliers are strongly encouraged to review the Certification Standard in detail and undertake their own internal readiness assessment before requesting certification.

Certification is awarded only where sufficient objective evidence demonstrates compliance with all applicable Certification Requirements.

A copy of the Certification Standard is available from PPS. Please contact **DRS@pps-ltd.com** if you require a copy or believe you have not received the latest version.

How can we determine whether our RVM is likely to be compliant before requesting certification?

Suppliers should review the UK DRS RVM Certification Standard and compare the functionality of their RVM against the applicable Certification Requirements.

PPS strongly recommends that suppliers verify functionality and gather supporting evidence before requesting certification assessment. Well-prepared submissions are more likely to progress efficiently through the certification process and reduce the risk of reassessment activities.

How long will an assessment take?

Suppliers should expect PPS to retain assessment models for up to two weeks from the agreed assessment start date. This allows sufficient time for completion of assessment activities, evidence reviews and certification administration. PPS will keep suppliers informed throughout the process and will agree collection arrangements following completion of the assessment.

Where will assessments take place?

Assessments will be conducted at the PPS assessment facility in the West Midlands, UK. Larger machines may be assessed at an alternative agreed location where transportation is impractical.

Can assessments take place outside the UK?

Certification assessments are intended to take place within the United Kingdom. Where this is not practical or feasible, suppliers should contact PPS to discuss possible alternative arrangements.

Who is responsible for delivery and collection of RVMs?

Suppliers are responsible for delivery and collection of assessment models and for any associated transport and handling costs unless otherwise agreed.

Do suppliers need to provide technical support during assessments?

Suppliers may be required to provide technical support contacts or appropriately qualified personnel to support installation, commissioning, configuration or assessment activities. Any such support is provided at the supplier's own cost.

Test Samples & Article Lists

Do suppliers need to provide test containers?

No. PPS is developing and maintaining a certification sample library and Test Article List that will be used for certification assessments.

Who provides the Test Article List?

PPS will provide the certification Test Article List for use during certification assessments.

Will the RVM supplier need to load the Test Article List?

PPS will work with suppliers during assessment planning to agree the most appropriate method for loading and validating the Test Article List. Suppliers should expect to demonstrate that the RVM can successfully load, apply and operate using the supplied Test Article List.

Will Article List updates be tested?

Yes. Certification assessment will include verification of Article List loading and update functionality. PPS will work with suppliers to agree the practical arrangements for applying and validating Test Article List updates during the assessment.

Certification Decisions

Is certification pass/fail?

Yes. Certification decisions are based on a pass/fail determination against the applicable Certification Requirements. Certification is granted only where sufficient objective evidence demonstrates compliance.

Will we receive a report?

Yes. Following assessment, suppliers will receive a Certification Assessment Report summarising the assessment activities undertaken, evidence reviewed, findings and certification outcome.

What happens if we fail?

PPS will identify the requirements that have not been successfully demonstrated. Depending on the nature of the findings, corrective action and reassessment may be required.

Who pays for reassessment?

Reassessment and re-certification activities are undertaken at the supplier's cost.

Re-certification

How long is certification valid for?

Certification remains valid for the period specified by Exchange for Change and only while the RVM continues to operate within its certified configuration and remains compliant with the requirements of the UK DRS RVM Certification Standard. Suppliers

are responsible for notifying Exchange for Change of any material changes to certified RVMs, including software updates, hardware modifications or changes to certified functionality, which may require review, reassessment or re-certification.

Do software updates require re-certification?

Not necessarily. Material changes should be notified for review. Depending on the nature of the change, it may be determined that no action is required, a partial reassessment is required, or re-certification is required.

What types of changes might trigger reassessment?

Examples include:

- Software or firmware updates
- Hardware modifications
- Recognition technology changes
- Fraud prevention changes
- API or interface changes
- Changes that affect certified functionality

Timeline

When will assessments start?

The current expectation is that initial certification assessments will commence during September 2026.

When will the first certification decisions be issued?

The current intention is to undertake an initial programme of certification assessments during September 2026, with the first certification decisions expected to be issued by mid-October 2026. Following these initial assessments, certification assessments will continue on a rolling basis and certification decisions will be issued as subsequent assessments and reviews are completed.

Will results be published?

Yes. Certification results will be recorded on the register of approved RVM suppliers maintained by Exchange for Change.