

RVM Certification Assessment Terms & Conditions

By submitting an assessment enquiry and accepting these Terms and Conditions, the Supplier confirms that it has read, understood and agrees to the following.

1. Purpose

These Terms and Conditions apply to participation in the UK Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Certification Programme delivered by PPS Sustainability & Circularity (PPS) as the appointed Certification Body.

These Terms should be read alongside the UK DRS Reverse Vending Machine Certification Standard. In the event of any conflict between these Terms and the Certification Standard, the Certification Standard shall take precedence.

2. Application of the Certification Standard

Certification assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the UK DRS Reverse Vending Machine Certification Standard.

The Certification Standard defines, amongst other things:

- Certification Requirements
- Assessment activities and verification methods
- Roles and responsibilities
- Pre-assessment validation requirements
- Certification decision rules
- Certification scope
- Re-certification requirements
- Suspension and withdrawal provisions

Suppliers are responsible for ensuring that they have reviewed and understood the Certification Standard prior to requesting certification assessment.

3. Assessment Scope and Representative Models

Suppliers may nominate representative RVM models for assessment as part of their certification assessment request.

PPS will assess up to three representative RVM units from each supplier, funded by Exchange for Change, as part of the UK DRS certification programme.

Where a supplier submits more than three representative RVM units for assessment, any additional assessment costs shall be borne by the Supplier.

Each model proposed for assessment should represent a distinct product family, technology platform, or configuration. Where multiple proposed models utilise substantially the same technology, software platform, recognition system, container processing system, or core hardware architecture, PPS may determine that assessment of a single representative model provides sufficient evidence to support the proposed certification scope.

The final certification scope, representative assessment models and associated assessment requirements will be determined by PPS in accordance with the UK DRS Reverse Vending Machine Certification Standard.

Where an RVM fails certification assessment and the identified issues cannot be resolved during the agreed assessment period, a subsequent reassessment may be required. Any reassessment or re-certification activities shall be undertaken at the Supplier's cost.

Re-certification may be required following material changes to the certified RVM, including hardware, firmware, software, interface or functionality changes, in accordance with the UK DRS Reverse Vending Machine Certification Standard. Any re-certification activities shall be undertaken at the Supplier's cost.

4. Assessment Readiness

Prior to certification assessment, the Supplier shall ensure that the proposed assessment model(s) satisfy the applicable readiness and pre-assessment validation requirements defined within the Certification Standard.

The Supplier shall provide access to the RVM, supporting systems and appropriately authorised personnel as reasonably required to support installation, configuration, assessment and certification activities.

The Supplier shall provide all documentation, evidence, technical information, system access and support reasonably required to facilitate certification assessment.

PPS reserves the right to postpone, suspend or cancel assessment activities where assessment readiness requirements have not been met.

5. Assessment Location

Certification assessments will be undertaken at a PPS assessment facility in the UK.

Where assessment within the UK is not practical or feasible, Suppliers should contact PPS to discuss alternative assessment arrangements. Any alternative arrangements shall be subject to agreement between PPS and the Supplier and may result in additional costs being incurred by the Supplier.

For large-format or bulk-fed RVMs (exceeding 3 metres in width or depth) that cannot reasonably be accommodated within a PPS assessment facility, assessment activities may be undertaken at:

- a pre-agreed UK location; or
- the Supplier's existing installation site,

subject to agreement between PPS and the Supplier.

The assessment location will be agreed following review of the certification assessment request.

6. Delivery, Collection and Storage

Unless otherwise agreed:

- The Supplier is responsible for the delivery of equipment to the assessment location.
- The Supplier is responsible for collection of equipment following completion of assessment activities.

- All transport, handling and associated costs remain the responsibility of the Supplier.

The Supplier shall ensure that RVMs are delivered in a manner that enables safe unloading, handling and movement at the assessment location. Unless otherwise agreed, RVMs shall be supplied in a configuration that allows unloading by forklift truck.

The Supplier shall provide any information necessary to support safe handling of the RVM, including equipment dimensions, weight, lifting points and any specific handling requirements.

Where practical, Suppliers should utilise reusable and returnable packaging materials. Packaging should be capable of supporting safe return transportation of the RVM following completion of assessment activities. The use of shrink-wrap as the primary packaging method is discouraged unless necessary to protect equipment during transport.

Upon completion of assessment activities, PPS will contact the Supplier to arrange collection of the RVM. The Supplier shall ensure that collection arrangements are completed within the agreed timescales.

Each RVM submitted for assessment will be allocated an assessment slot and should not remain at the assessment location for longer than 14 calendar days unless otherwise agreed in writing.

PPS reserves the right to apply reasonable storage, handling and administration charges where equipment is not collected within the agreed collection period. The Supplier shall be responsible for any costs arising from delayed collection.

7. Supplier Support

PPS may require the Supplier to provide appropriately qualified personnel to support installation, commissioning, configuration, maintenance or assessment activities.

The Supplier shall respond within a reasonable period to requests for information, clarification, corrective actions or technical support arising during assessment activities.

Any such support shall be provided at the Supplier's own cost.

8. Health, Safety and Insurance

The Supplier shall:

- Maintain appropriate insurance cover, including employer's liability, public liability and cover for equipment submitted for assessment, including transit, storage and equipment cover, as appropriate.
- Comply with all applicable health and safety, fire safety and risk management requirements relevant to the assessment location.
- Ensure that any personnel attending an assessment site are suitably trained and authorised.

PPS shall maintain appropriate insurance and comply with relevant health and safety obligations relating to its assessment facilities.

9. Booking and Scheduling

PPS Sustainability and Circularity Limited

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Registered Office: as above | Registered in England & Wales No. 2484081 | VAT Registration No. 550 8092 48

Submission of a certification assessment request does not constitute a confirmed assessment booking.

Assessment dates will only be confirmed once PPS has:

- Reviewed the proposed certification scope;
- Reviewed the required documentation and evidence; and
- Confirmed assessment readiness.

PPS reserves the right to postpone, suspend or cancel assessment activities where:

- Required information or evidence has not been provided;
- Assessment readiness requirements have not been met;
- Safety requirements are not satisfied; or
- Circumstances prevent assessment activities from being undertaken effectively.

10. Confidentiality

Both parties shall maintain the confidentiality of commercially sensitive, technical and non-public information obtained during the certification process.

Confidential information shall not be disclosed except where required by law, the Certification Standard, UK DMO governance requirements or with the consent of the disclosing party.

11. Liability

The Supplier remains responsible for the safety, compliance and suitability of any RVM, equipment, accessories and associated items submitted for assessment.

The Supplier retains responsibility for arranging appropriate insurance cover for any equipment submitted for certification assessment, including cover for transit, storage and assessment activities.

Whilst PPS will exercise reasonable care in the handling of equipment, PPS shall not be responsible for loss of, theft of, damage to, or deterioration of equipment submitted for assessment except where caused by the negligence of PPS.

PPS shall not be liable for any indirect, consequential, special or business losses arising from participation in the certification programme, including loss of profit, revenue, business opportunity or goodwill.

Nothing within these Terms and Conditions shall exclude or limit any liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

12. Force Majeure

Neither party shall be liable for delays or disruption caused by events outside their reasonable control.

Where practicable, PPS Sustainability & Circularity will work with the Supplier to agree alternative assessment arrangements.

13. Governing Law

These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.