



Deposit Mark & Barcode Requirements

Version 2.2 | 6 March 2026

From 1 October 2026, it will be an offence to supply regulated beverages without the deposit mark

- The commencement date for the BCRS is scheduled for 1 April 2026. This is the first day BCRS products can be sold to consumers.
- There will be a 6-month transition period between 1 April 2026 and 30 September 2026 for the beverage and retail industry to clear old stocks which are not labelled with the Scheme's deposit mark and therefore ineligible for refunds.
- From 1 October 2026, it will be an offence for any person, including supermarket operators, to supply or offer to supply in Singapore any regulated beverages, if the beverage container is not affixed with the Scheme's deposit mark and a barcode.
- Deposit mark informs consumer that the beverage container carries a S\$0.10 deposit, and can be refunded at designated return points. The S\$0.10 deposit is not subject to Goods & Service Tax (GST). The sale of beverages continues to be subject to GST.
- BCRS Ltd., has the exclusive and sole right to approve or prohibit the use of the deposit mark for the BCRS for single-use beverage containers in scope. If the deposit mark is used without registration and authorisation, BCRS Ltd. is authorised to:
 - 1.demand that the use of the deposit mark be stopped;
 - 2.demand the removal of the deposit mark from the packaging, and;
 - 3.demand compensation for the unauthorised use of the deposit mark.

Singapore's Deposit Mark
(Use of deposit mark is
subject to BCRS Ltd.'s
approval)



Deposit Mark Design



Negative / reversed
application

Deposit Mark
Visually identify
products covered by
the scheme



Barcode Requirements

- National (or Singapore-specific) barcodes (unlike regional or international barcodes) are highly encouraged but not mandated by law. However, producers will be required to obtain a **new barcode** (e.g., from GS1) for any beverage containers affixed with the Scheme's deposit mark after 1 April 2026. GS1 standard barcodes are recommended. Please visit: [GS1 Singapore website](#) to get a quote.
- This new barcode is needed to facilitate the transition period and help retailers distinguish between products with and without the \$0.10 deposit at the Point-of-Sale systems and at BCRS Ltd.'s return points. GS1 standard barcodes are recommended. Please visit: [GS1 Singapore website](#) to get a quote.
- Producers can choose either a **new** Singapore-specific barcode or a **new** international barcode. Singapore-specific barcode is encouraged to prevent parallel imports from being accepted at return points without the deposit being paid upfront to the scheme operator. **International barcodes are acceptable but will incur a security fee.**
- New barcode of the regulated product will need to be submitted to BCRS Ltd. via the Producer Portal for registration and approval during Phase 3: Product Registration.
- Barcodes must be placed on the container **vertically in the ladder format** so that the bars are horizontal, and **placed at an even part of the container** to allow reliable Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) scanning.

Deposit Mark Application Policy

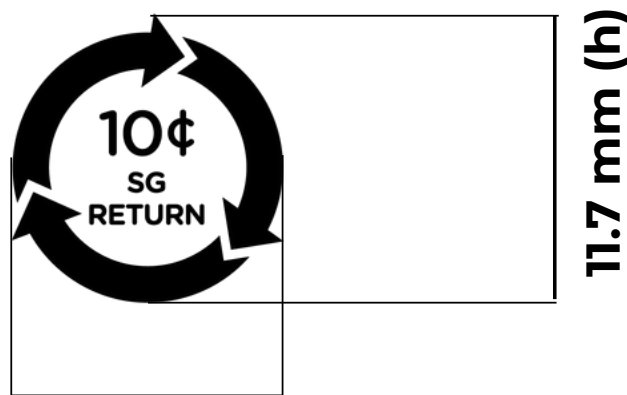
Download Deposit Mark Artwork: [HERE](#)



Deposit Mark



Negative / reversed application



11.0 mm (w)

Standard Recommended Size:

11.0 mm (w) x 11.7 mm (h)

There is no maximum size requirement.

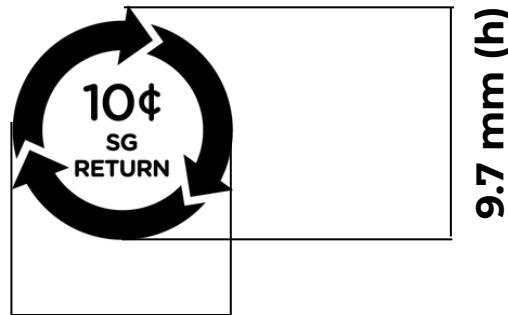
Deposit Mark Colours

Black text on white background is the recommended solution, but the colours can be adapted to the other colours of the container or label which BCRS Ltd. must approve.

The deposit mark colour must have sufficient contrast with the background colour.

Deposit Mark Placement

The deposit mark must be placed on the container near the barcode, maximum 10 mm distance from the barcode, still respecting the clearance area of 2 mm around the deposit mark and the clearance area (quiet zone) of the barcode.



9.0 mm (w)

Minimum Size:

9.0 mm (w) x 9.7 mm (h)



Clearance Zone:

Minimum height of the “10c” of space all around the mark, which is **1.9 mm** for the minimum size.

Barcode Requirements

- National (or Singapore-specific) barcodes (unlike regional or international barcodes) are highly encouraged but not mandated by law, as it helps prevent containers brought in outside of Singapore from being accepted.
- Acceptable barcode formats are in EAN-13, EAN-8, UPC-A, and UPC-E formats which are all defined by GS1.
- GS1-standard barcodes are recommended, but it is not mandatory to obtain them directly from GS1.
- The barcode sizes should adhere to the formats for EAN in the table on the right, in Height x Width in the recommended ladder format. This will ensure that the codes can be identified in RVMs and with BCRS counting machines.
- The recommendation is to use the nominal with a factor 1.00. Factor 0.80 is a minimum, and factor 1.20 is a maximum.

Barcode sizes:

Size	Magnification factor	EAN-13 [mm]		EAN-8 [mm]	
		Height	Width	Height	Width
Minimum	0.80	29.83	18.28	21.38	14.58
	0.90	33.56	20.57	24.06	16.41
Nominal (Recommendation)	1.00	37.29	22.85	26.73	18.23
	1.10	41.02	25.14	29.40	20.05
Maximum	1.20	44.75	27.42	32.08	21.88

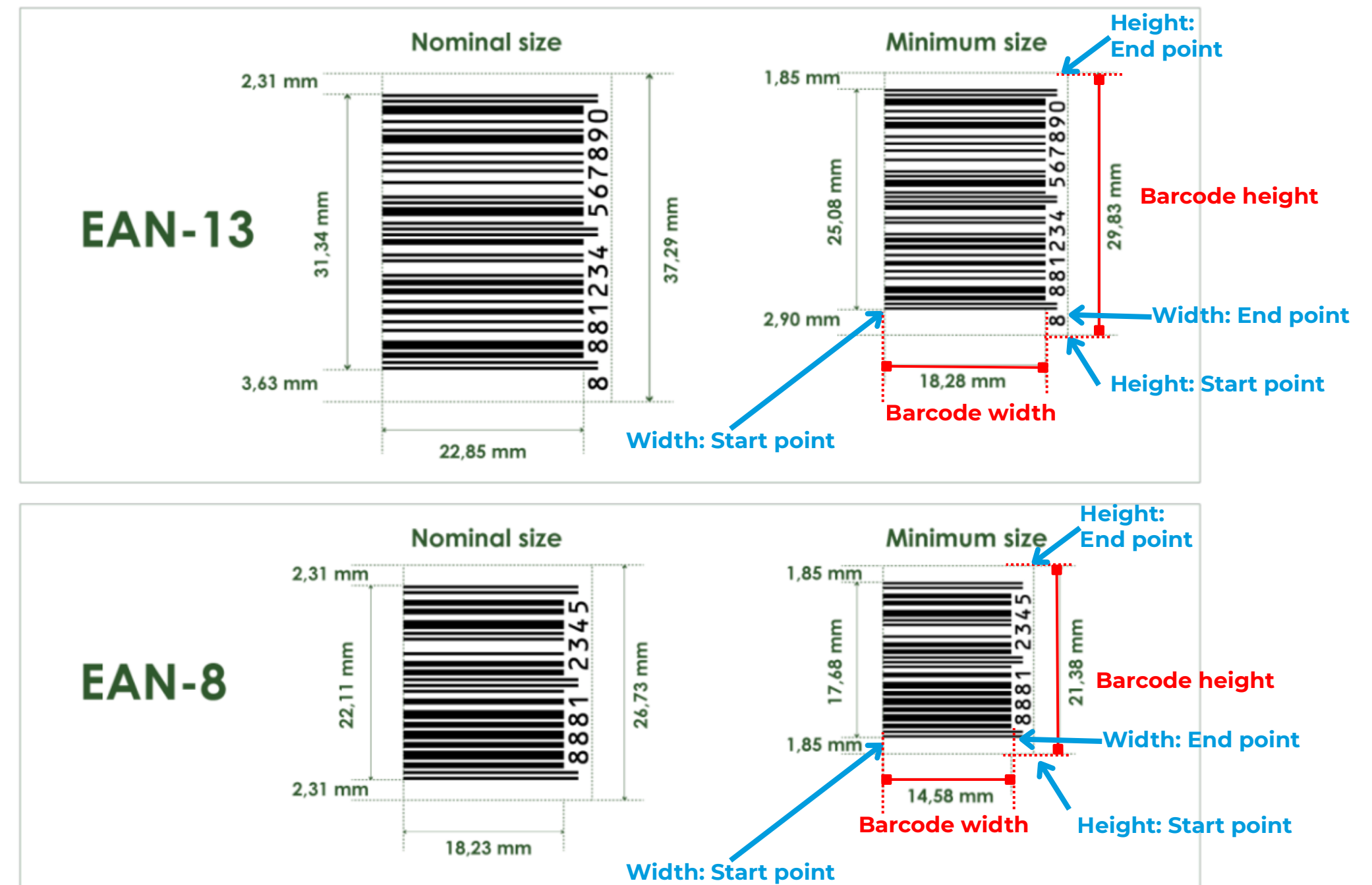
- A clearance area (margin/quiet zone) (see table above) must be left at the beginning and end of the barcode in the background colour. (See page 7 for more information on quiet zone)
- If UPC-A or UPC-E codes are used there is a different standard to that of EAN-13 and EAN-8. The nominal and minimum barcode sizes should adhere to the formats for UPC in the table below, in Height x Width in the recommended ladder format.

Size	Magnification factor	UPC-A [mm]		UPC-E [mm]	
		Height	Width	Height	Width
Nominal	1.00	37.3	25.9	26.7	21.3
Minimum	0.80	29.8	20.7	21.4	17.0

Barcode Placement

- Barcodes should be placed on the container vertically in the ladder format so that the bars are horizontal.
- The barcode must be placed on the cylindrical surface of the container with sufficient clearance, away from the neck of the bottle and at least 10 mm from the bottom of the container.
- Barcodes should be on the container's main label for bottles and not on a neck label.
- Barcodes must never be placed on the top or bottom of a container (i.e. bottle or can) as the RVMs and counting machines are unable to read the barcodes due to the configuration of the scanners in the machines.
- The barcode should be placed on an even part of the container, with as few shape irregularities as possible.

Visualised sizes and dimensions for EAN barcode format

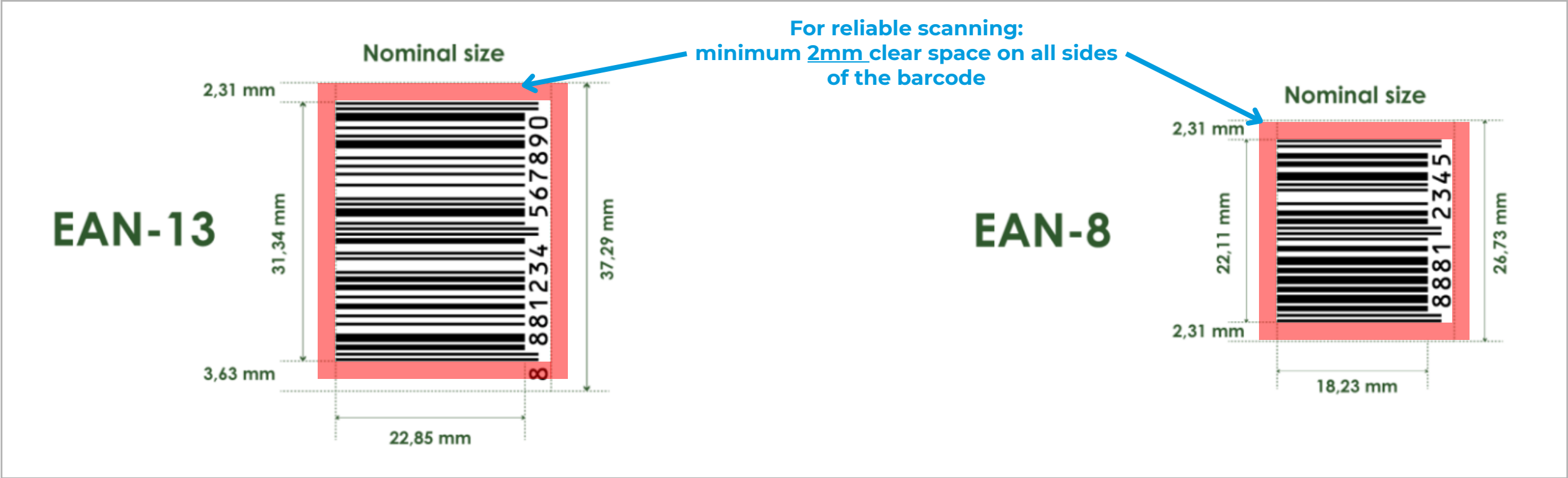


Application of Barcode on Product Artwork Submission

Barcode Quiet Zone

- Maintain 2-4 mm clear space around the barcode and print in solid black on a white background for optimal RVMs scanning success.
- This quiet zone must remain completely free of text, graphics, borders, or colour changes.
- The quiet zone must comply with GS1 minimum requirements.

Recommended quiet zones for EAN barcodes

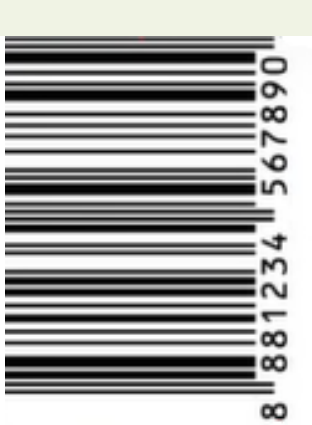


Example of Good Barcode Quiet Zone

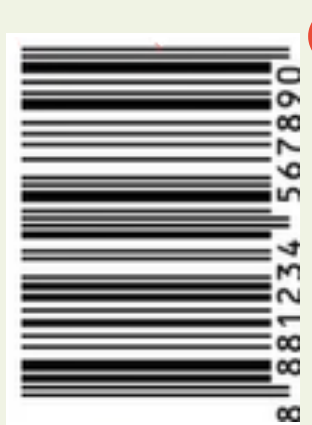


There are quiet zone on **all sides** of the barcode

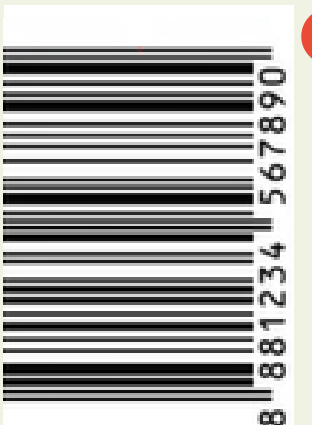
Example of Bad Barcode Quiet Zone



No quiet zone on the **top** and **left** sides of the barcode



No quiet zone on the **right** side of the barcode



No quiet zone on the **left** side of the barcode

Application of Barcode on Product Artwork Submission

Barcode Colours

- The readability of barcodes on the Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) depends, among other things, on the contrast between the dark bars (lines) and the light background (spaces).
- Black bars on a white background give the highest contrast and are the recommended barcode colour combination for reliable scanning.

Example of Good Barcode Colour



Black bars on a white background

To maximise barcode scanning success at RVMs

- ✓ Use high-contrast barcode colours (preferably black on white).
- ✓ Do not go below the minimum barcode size.
- ✓ Keep the required quiet zone (clear space) around the barcode.

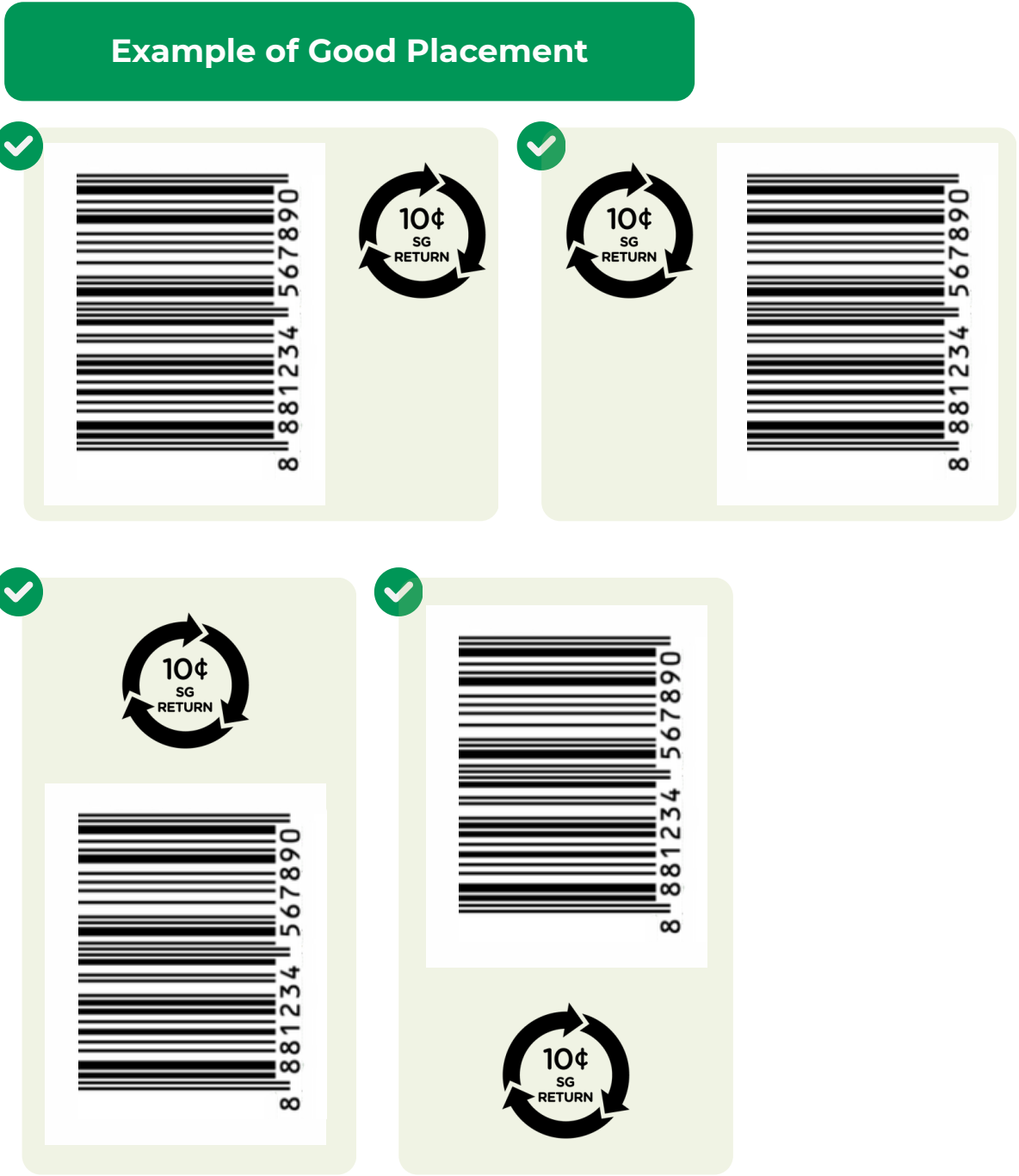
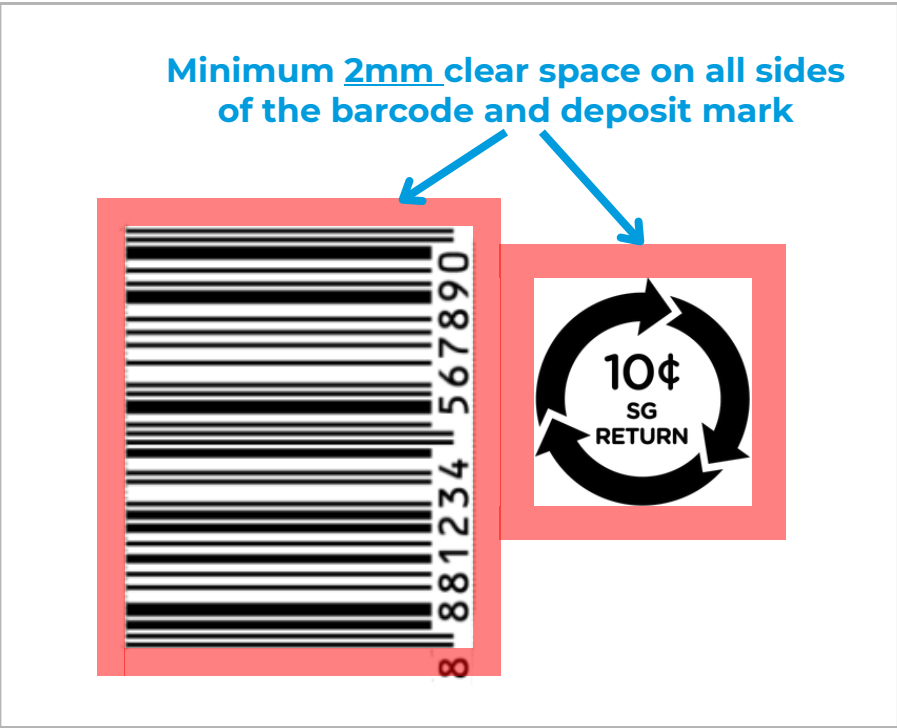
If your barcode is not black bars on a white background, BCRS Ltd. may request product sample testing to confirm the barcode can be reliably scanned at RVMs before product is approved

Application of Barcode and Deposit Mark on Product Artwork Submission

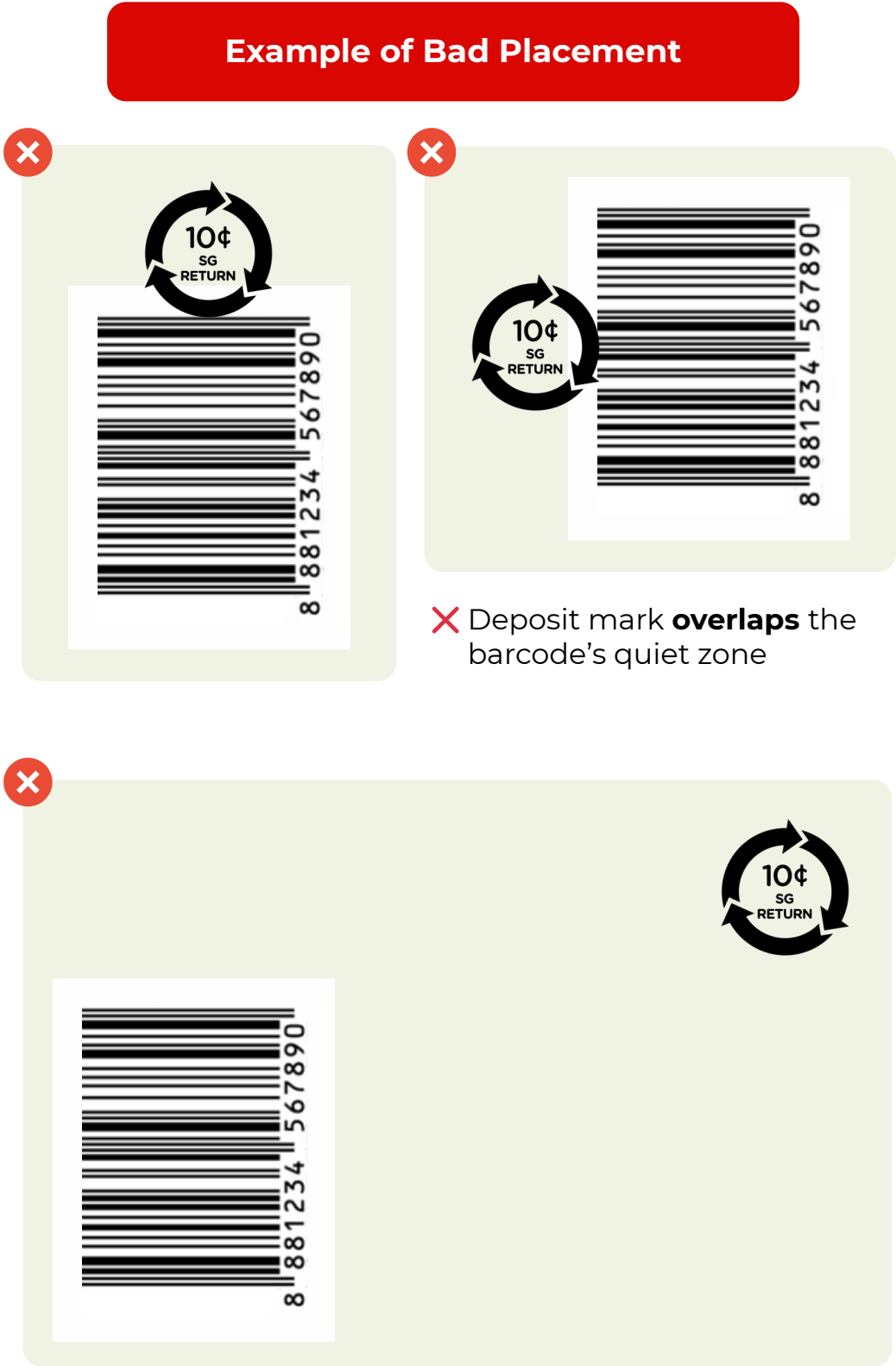
Barcode & Deposit Mark Placement

- Place the **deposit mark near the new barcode** (within 10 mm), while maintaining 2 mm clearance around the deposit mark and keeping the barcode quiet zone clear.

Recommended placement



- ✓ Deposit mark **within 10 mm** of the barcode
- ✓ **Clear space maintained** (2 mm around Deposit Mark + barcode quiet zone)
- ✓ Deposit mark placed beside/above barcode **without overlapping** quiet zone



- ✗ Deposit mark **overlaps** the barcode's quiet zone
- ✗ Deposit mark **too far** from the barcode (>10 mm)

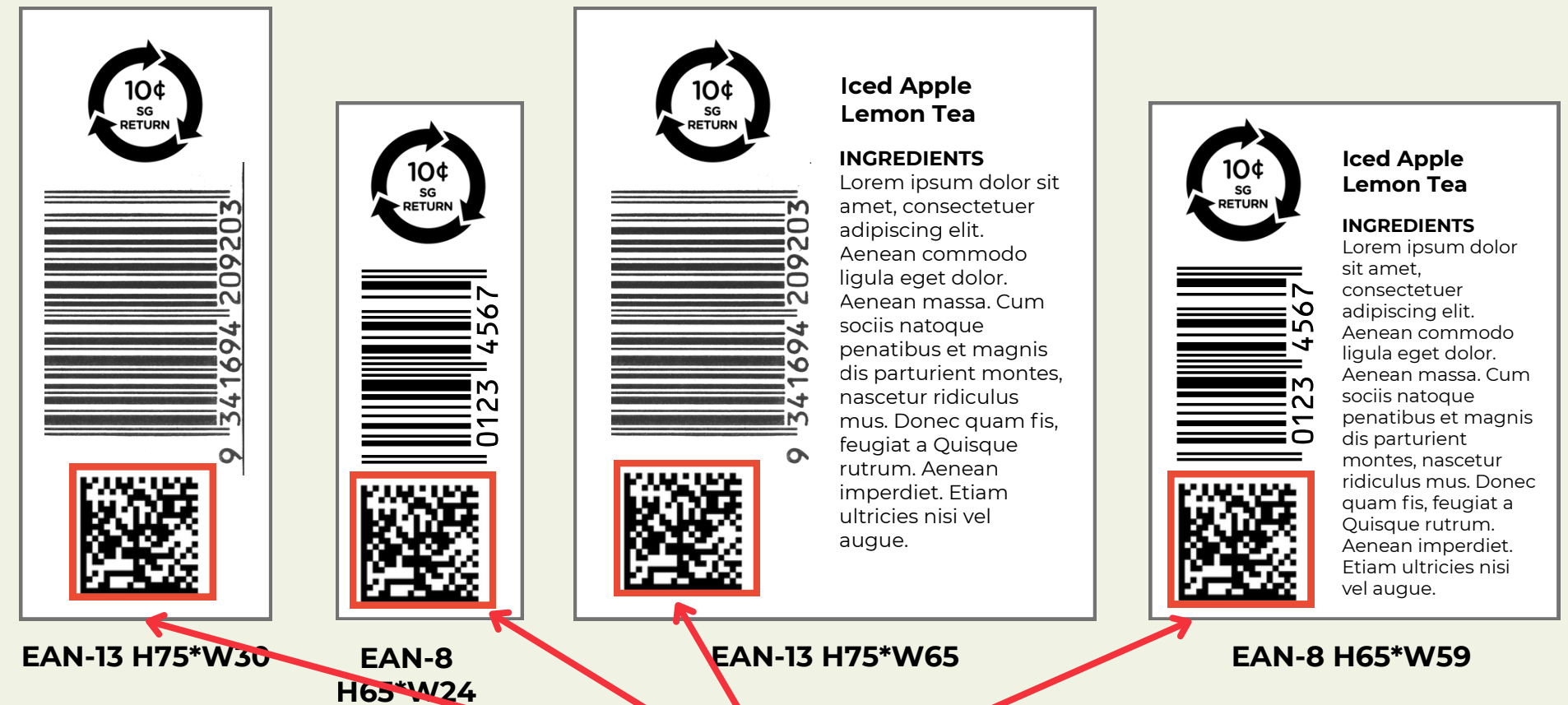
Stickering

Option for Stickering

- Stickering is an alternative for products which are not pre-printed with the deposit mark.
- **For producers who are unable to incorporate deposit mark and/or new barcode onto master artwork**, you may place sticker orders for with BCRS Ltd.'s appointed panel of printing companies via BCRS Producer Portal. While the ordering of the stickers made via BCRS Ltd.'s portal, the payment for sticker orders is a direct transaction between the producer and selected vendor.
- Prices of stickers will be stated in the BCRS Producer Portal.
- **Producers can only use stickers from BCRS Ltd. appointed panel of printing companies.** Stickers from other printing companies are not accepted under the Scheme.

Example of stickers for deposit mark and new barcode

Not to scale. Please refer to deposit mark & barcode policy for application guidelines.



For stickers, please draw out a square to indicate space for a 2D matrix code in your sticker artwork. Minimum size: 10mm x 10mm
The code will be generated by BCRS Ltd.

End

If you have questions or having issues with the portal, please contact us at:

- **Email: info@bcrs.sg**
- **Helpline: +65 6035 5886 (Mon - Fri, 9am to 6pm)**