

**4626.0890 4-603.17 RETURNABLES; CLEANING FOR REFILLING.\***

A. Except as specified in items B and C, returned empty containers intended for cleaning and refilling with food shall be cleaned and refilled in a regulated food processing plant.

B. A food-specific container for beverages may be refilled at a food establishment if:

(1) only a beverage that is not a potentially hazardous food is used as specified in part 4626.0295, item A;

(2) 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;

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

(4) the consumer-owned container returned to the food establishment for refilling is refilled for sale or service only to the same consumer; and

(5) the container is refilled by:

(a) an employee of the food establishment; or

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

C. Consumer-owned containers that are not food-specific may be filled at a water vending machine or system.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 31.101; 31.11; 144.05; 144.08; 144.12; 157.011*

**History:** *23 SR 519*

**Published Electronically:** *October 11, 2007*