

Purpose

This document provides guidance to producers of Blue Box materials who are required to submit data about the Blue Box materials they supply into Ontario to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) under the [Blue Box Regulation O. Reg. 391/21](#). This guide specifically outlines the impact on supply deductions following [amendments](#) to the Blue Box Regulation that came into effect on July 1, 2023.

This guide also provides instructions on how to report additional deductions to RPRA for 2023 by completing the [Reporting Additional Deductions Form](#) and submitting required supporting documentation. ([See below](#))

Overview of allowable deductions

Blue Box producers may deduct material from their reported weight supplied into Ontario under two general categories of deductions. Only the first category was affected by the amendments to the Blue Box Regulation.

General deduction categories:

1. Blue Box material collected from a business or institution where Blue Box collection services are not provided under the regulation. (Previously, the deduction was only allowed for material where the product related to the Blue Box material was supplied and used at that location. For example, a fast-food restaurant.)
2. Blue Box material that is collected from an eligible source at the time a related product is installed or delivered. For example, packaging that is removed from a house by a technician installing a new appliance. (This deduction category remains the same.)

These amendments have no impact on many producers, as they have no materials to report under the expanded deduction.

Eligible producers may report additional deductions for the 2023 Blue Box Supply Report (2022 supply data) by July 31, 2023. No extensions will be granted for reporting beyond this date.

A producer can choose not to report the new deductions in its 2023 report (2022 supply data), and instead start reporting the expanded deductions in its 2024 Blue Box Supply Report (2023 supply data).

Note: Producers who report this data in their 2023 report may see impacts to their 2024 management requirement.

Expanded deductions available following amendments to the Blue Box Regulation

Blue Box Producers may now deduct materials that are collected from a business or institution where producers are not required to provide Blue Box collection services. Examples include:

- Offices
- Stores and shopping malls
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Community centres
- Places of worship
- Recreation facilities
- Sports and entertainment venues
- Universities and colleges
- Manufacturing facilities
- Golf courses
- Cemeteries
- Amusement parks

Producers **CANNOT** deduct the following materials collected through the collection systems established under the Blue Box Regulation:

- Material that is generated at a facility (including multi-residential buildings, retirement homes, long-term care homes and schools).
- Material that is collected from a residence through a curbside or depot collection service.
- Material that is collected from a public space (including an outdoor area in a park, playground or sidewalk, or a public transit station).
- Material collected under an alternative collection system.
- Material collected under a supplemental collection system.

Beverage containers cannot be deducted. Materials that are deducted cannot count toward a producer's management requirement.

How to report additional deductions

You must complete the [Reporting Additional Deductions Form](#) and submit it to registry@rpra.ca along with necessary supporting documentation by July 31, 2023, to be eligible for additional deductions.

There are two ways to calculate additional deductions in 2023, depending on each producer's deduction history. You must choose either OPTION A or OPTION B.

OPTION A: Producers who received a deduction in 2021 under Stewardship Ontario for waste managed outside of the residential Blue Box system

Option A applies to you if you were a Blue Box steward and claimed a deduction in your 2021 supply reporting (2020 data) under Stewardship Ontario's [Deduction and Exclusion](#) Policy as

part of your steward obligation under the legacy Blue Box Program Plan. You must provide the following:

- Your original 2022 supply data and deduction data, which you reported to RPRA by May 31, 2023. This data must match exactly the data in your submitted report.
- Complete the table titled “Option A: Apply Legacy Blue Box Program Deduction Factor” by providing the following:
 - The proportion of your 2021 supply reported weight that was approved by Stewardship Ontario to be deducted due to the material being disposed of outside the residential waste system.
 - Do not count material deducted under a different category, such as packaging that was collected when the related product was installed or delivered.
 - Proportion of the weight of material deducted in 2021 which meets the current definition of “beverage container”. [See definition of “beverage container” for guidance.](#)
 - Proportion of the weight of material deducted in 2021 which was disposed of at Blue Box eligible facilities and public spaces. Material collected from eligible sources is not available for deductions under the Blue Box Regulation. This includes:
 - facilities (e.g., apartments, condominiums, designated retirement and long-term care homes, schools)
 - public spaces (e.g., sidewalk and park recycling bins; public transit stations or stops).
 - Weight of material reported in 2023 under the second deduction category (material collected from an eligible source at the time the related product was installed or delivered). This amount remains unchanged from your 2023 supply report.

In addition to submitting the required Reporting Additional Deductions Form, you must also provide a clear explanation of the methodology used to determine the percentage of materials deducted in 2021 which meet the definition of beverage container, and the percentage of materials deducted in 2021 which were disposed of at eligible facilities and public spaces.

Option A example:

A producer supplied 10,000kg of rigid plastic in 2022. Using Option A, the producer applies a 70% deduction based on 2021 reporting to Stewardship Ontario. Of the deducted material, 65% meets the definition of beverage container, and 10% was disposed of at eligible facilities and public spaces. The 2023 adjusted supply deduction reported by this producer is 1,750kg for rigid plastic.

Option A: Apply Legacy Blue Box Program Deduction Factor								
Material Category	Original Data	2021 Legacy Blue Box Program Data			Adjusted 2023 Data			
	Total supply weight (kg)	2021 Stewardship Ontario approved deduction (%)	Proportion by weight of 2021 deducted material that meets the definition of "beverage container" (%)	Proportion by weight of 2021 deducted material that was disposed of at eligible facilities and public spaces (%)	2023 adjusted supply deduction (%)	Supply deduction (kg)	Supply deduction for packaging removed at delivery or installation (kg) (UNCHANGED)	Net
Beverage container	0							0
Glass	0				0%	0		0
Flexible plastic	0				0%	0		0
Rigid plastic	10000	70%	65%	10%	18%	1750	0	8250
Metal	0				0%	0		0
Paper	0				0%	0		0
Compostables	0							0
Total	10000					1750	0	8250

Your adjusted 2023 data and 2024 management requirement will be confirmed by RPRAs once your adjusted deduction reporting is reviewed and accepted.

OPTION B: Producers who did not report Stewardship Ontario deductions in 2021 or were not obligated as Blue Box stewards in Ontario in 2021

If you would like to report additional deductions in 2023 but Option A does not apply to you, complete the [Reporting Additional Deductions Form](#) by providing the following information:

- Your original 2022 supply data and deduction data, which you reported to RPRAs before May 31, 2023. This data must match exactly the data in your submitted report.
- Complete the table titled "Option B: Report Adjusted Supply Deduction" by providing the adjusted total weight of material to be deducted.

In addition to submitting the required form you must also explain the methodology used to determine the weight of materials to be deducted from your report and provide a clear explanation of how it was determined that the materials meet the requirements to be deducted.

If the deduction methodology involves a third-party study, waste audit data, or market research, you must also include a copy of the study, data or research. The study, data or research must meet the following criteria:

- It must be current, undertaken or refreshed within the 5 years preceding the submission year,

- It must include information such as time frame of the study/research/data, demographics, location, survey questions, and the results must be clearly stated.
- The questions asked in the research and study must demonstrate the percentage of Blue Box materials to be deducted versus the percentage supplied to consumers in Ontario.

You should also provide any other information to support your deduction or that will support the Compliance Team in reviewing and confirming the deduction is accurate.

Your adjusted 2023 data and 2024 management requirement will be confirmed by RPRA once your adjusted deduction reporting is reviewed and accepted.

Resources

- Download the [reporting form for additional deductions](#)
- Review producer requirements on our [Blue Box producer webpage](#)
- Contact our Compliance Team at 833-600-0530 or registry@rpra.ca