STATE FOLLOWS INDUSTRY AND BANS EMPTY CAN/BOTTLE RETURNABLES

As reported yesterday, MPA/MACS advised retailers to no longer accept empty returnable bottles and cans. Many other industry groups did the same including Speedway and Meijer.

Today, the state of Michigan put out the following notice: Although bottle return services are often located within grocery and convenience stores, they are not considered critical infrastructure. There will be no change in the deposit collected at the time of purchase during this temporary suspension of bottle return services.

Sample Signage to Post in Your Stores:
At this time we are no longer able to process your bottle & can returns. The health and safety of our customers, employees and their families is our number one priority. Thank you for your continued support of our store.

UNDERSTANDING NEW PAID TIME OFF REQUIREMENTS
RECORDED WEBINAR FROM NACS NOW AVAILABLE

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act into law contains federal workplace regulatory initiatives, ranging from paid leave entitlements for employees impacted by the Coronavirus to Family and Medical Leave Act protections to care for children during school closings. All businesses with 500 or fewer employees will be directly impacted. These rules are brand new and can be particularly confusing for smaller business operators. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the effective date of the paid time requirement is April 1, 2020, which is a day earlier than was originally expected.

To help explain the new rules and what they mean for your business, the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) hosted a webinar with two national employment law experts from noted labor law firm Fisher Phillips—Steven Bernstein, Regional Managing Partner in their Tampa office, and Benjamin Ebbink, Partner in their Sacramento office—who will walk businesses through the practical and legal ramifications of these provisions. To view a recording of the webinar to go: www.convenience.org/Education/Learning-On-Demand/Understanding-the-new-Paid-Time-Off-requirements-D#.X nud4kBFxPZ

DOL has put together some information on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that might be helpful:
Questions and Answers: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions

CLEANING HIGH-TOUCH SURFACES AT GAS STATIONS
HELP DEBUNK THE MYTH THAT GAS PUMPS SPREAD COVID-19
BY BEING UPFRONT ABOUT YOUR CLEANING AND SANITIZING PRACTICES

Inside the store, convenience retailers are doing their part to minimize COVID-19 risk by cleaning and sanitizing high-touch surfaces, and the same practices should be applied to the fuel island.

Companies like CAF are providing retailers with guidance for cleaning and sanitizing high-touch areas at the pump, including nozzles, keypads and buttons, touchscreens and monitors, and squeegee handles. CAF is providing a downloadable and printable “Outdoor Surface Cleaning and Disinfecting” poster, as well as a downloadable and printable “Hourly Cleaning Checklist” to help retailers keep track of when employees clean and sanitize high-touch areas throughout the day.

To read the full article from NACS go to: www.convenience.org/Media/Daily/2020/Mar/24/1-Cleaning-High-Touch-Surfaces-at-the-Pump_Fuels