

CCPC clears Coca-Cola / BDS Vending Solutions deal

12 February 2025

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has cleared the proposed purchase of BDS Vending Solutions Limited (BDS Vending) by Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Limited, an indirectly owned subsidiary of Coca-Cola HBC AG ([M/24/014](#)).

Coca-Cola HBC AG is a bottling partner to The Coca-Cola Company. The company's primary activities are the bottling and distribution of a range of drinks but it also offers full vending services to customers. These vending services include the installation, operation and servicing of vending machines.

BDS Vending, which is based in Dublin, offers full vending services to its customers, including vending machine sales, supply, operation, servicing and customer support services.

The proposed purchase was notified to the CCPC in March 2024. Following a preliminary examination, the CCPC decided an in-depth investigation was needed to establish whether the proposed transaction would result in a substantial lessening of competition in the State. This type of detailed further review is commonly referred to as a phase two investigation.

Significant additional information was provided by both parties during the course of the investigation, such that the CCPC is satisfied that the deal can proceed.

Full details of our merger review process and timelines are set out in the CCPC's [CCPC-Mergers-and-Acquisitions-Procedures-2023.pdf](#). The CCPC will publish a full determination on [ccpc.ie](#) no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination, allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed.

ENDS

Editor's notes

CCPC's Merger Review Process

Mergers and acquisitions which meet certain financial thresholds must be notified to the CCPC for review. While the vast majority of mergers and acquisitions raise no concerns, some mergers and acquisitions can reduce competition in a market, for example by creating or strengthening a dominant player. This may harm consumers through higher prices, reduced choice or less innovation.

The work undertaken by the CCPC during a merger investigation varies; however, it may include in-depth economic analyses of the affected market(s) or segments, market research, and consultations with suppliers, customers and competitors of merging parties. Full details of the merger review process are set out in the [CCPC Mergers and Acquisitions Procedures](#).

Case Timeline

	<i>Transaction Timelines to Date</i>	<i>Notes</i>
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5 March 2024	Notification	This is the date from which the timelines, within which the CCPC must make a determination, begin to run.
15 April 2024	Phase 1 requirements for information were issued to parties	This pauses and resets the deadline for the CCPC to make a determination.
29 July 2024	Required information received from parties and requirements for information complied with.	This is the new date from which the timelines within which the CCPC must make a determination in Phase 1 (30 working days) and Phase 2 (120 working days total) begin to run.
6 September 2024	Phase 1 determination issues. Phase 2 investigation opened.	
26 September and 16 October 2024	Phase 2 requirements for information were issued to parties	Phase 2 determination deadline is paused
29 November 2024	Required information received from parties and Requirement for Information complied with.	Phase 2 determination deadline is resumed
12 February 2025	Determination issued	