



Common sense cut to red tape – Spirits industry welcomes Government action on excise administration

The Rudd Government's decision to make the Australian Taxation Office solely responsible for the administration of all excise-equivalent goods (known as EEGs) has been applauded by the distilled spirits industry as a welcome simplification of the previously duplicated arrangements.

The new system will see the ATO take over the administration of excise payments from Customs, which will retain its border control function. This will reduce red-tape that has had a major impact on the industry and its compliance burden.

"It's a very sensible, pragmatic move that modernises the administration arrangements we've had to endure for so many years. The industry has argued for this change for a long time, thankfully common-sense has prevailed," said Mr Stephen Riden, Information and Research Manager for the Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA).

"A single agency approach to managing excise goods will see lower costs for both the Government and the industry. That is a welcome development and the Government is to be congratulated," Mr Riden said.

The distilled spirits industry is committed to promoting a more responsible drinking culture in Australia through responsible consumption labelling, consumer education, responsible marketing practices, an enforced regulatory framework and the responsible service of alcohol.

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