

Customs & Excise Amendment Bill – Passed

The Distilled Spirits Association applauds the passage of the Customs and Excise Amendment Bill that will see the aligning of the two annual alcohol tax adjustments to one single date - 1 July.

Responsible for highlighting the issue to Government, Thomas Chin, chief executive of the Distilled Spirits Association comments: "Synchronising the date for excise tax adjustments with the Alcohol Advisory Council Levy adjustment date will reduce compliance costs and avoid disruptive administrative costs for manufacturers, importers and alcohol retailers."

The move is consistent with the Government's quality regulations review programme, however, the Association now challenges the Minister of Customs to reform other aspects of the excise tax system and deliver a more balanced alcohol tax regime.

"We've long advocated the need for an alignment of the taxation dates and we see this as a small but positive step towards a fairer tax regime. It's our ultimate aim to see spirits treated on the same basis as other alcohol beverage types-," says Mr Chin.

"The method used to manufacture a beverage should not come into consideration with tax policy and a reformed tax regime could act as a catalyst for fuller business development and growth."

On an annual basis, the drinks industry pays out more than \$500million in alcohol excise tax and duties and around \$12million in ALAC levies.

ENDS.

Prepared on behalf of the DSA by the pr shop. For further information, please contact Sally Frewin (09) 368 1078, 021 333 221, sally@theprshop.co.nz