

EXCISE DUTY MANAGEMENT FOR E-COMMERCE IN EUROPE

Compliance management of indirect taxation for alcoholic beverages

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. Wherever you are in the world, in whatever industry, you can rely on our international teams of experts to provide specialised solutions to make your business faster, simpler and more efficient. Maco Customs Service was acquired by SGS in 2017 and is a specialised and full-service excise provider for The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, offering customs support in terms of brokerage, compliance management, software and consultancy.

LEGAL BACKGROUND - E-COMMERCE – 'DISTANCE SALES' OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Web shops selling community excise goods (cross-bordered - within the EU) to private individuals are obliged to pay the related indirect taxes (excise tax and VAT) in the final country of consumption. In order to facilitate these cross-bordered transactions of excise goods, the European Commission presented an official framework in 1993 containing the minimum conditions to which all EU member states must act. All individual EU member states remain free to set additional requirements for specific trade lanes and/or excise goods, which leads to highly complicated and different handling processes across the EU.

Web shops that do not comply need to be aware that violations against the EU framework or the national regulations will cause high penalties, in addition to the recovery of the indirect taxes which were not paid accordingly. National excise authorities recently launched investigation teams to track down the internationally trading web shops and audit them against national regulations.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

SGS Maco offers a fully integrated service which ensures 100% compliance for excise sales in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany.

- Client-specific license request for excise purposes in the country of consumption
- VAT registration/administration in the country of consumption
- Our Excise Duty Calculator can be interfaced with your order management application to ensure full transparency on your Excise duties to be paid on shipment level.
- Connection between our excise application and your order management system allows automated data processing
- Management of official administrative requirements and final payment of indirect taxes
- General support and guidance

HOW IT WORKS

1. SGS Maco applies for a client-specific excise license 'Fiscal representative: Distance sales' in order to represent foreign web shops in the country of consumption. In addition, the mandatory VAT registration in the country of consumption on behalf of the represented web shop will be applied.
2. We set up an account for your company in our web-based excise application in order to create a client-specific article database. In this database we define the corresponding (national) excise category/tariff for each individual article. Using this service, the excise application automatically calculates the applicable excise taxes on article level.

3. We create a client interface between the excise application and your software for a fully automated dataflow (covering automated handling of data transfer and the exchange of documents and information).
4. After approval of the excise license and VAT registration we make sure that your transactions are completed accordingly within the excise application. The individual shipments will be consolidated for excise purposes and payment of the applicable excise taxes within the legal time window. Beside the excise duties, we also take care of your national VAT administration.

WHY CHOOSE SGS MACO?

The SGS Maco excise application has been audited and approved by the national excise authorities in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. We have granted customs a permanent access to the application in order to monitor the administrative flow instead of the physical goods flow, which guarantees an efficient supply chain in the field of E-Commerce of alcoholic beverages.

Do you (want to) sell alcoholic beverages B2C to other EU-countries? SGS Maco helps you to do it compliant, simple, fully automated and cost effective. With our solution, there is no more reason not to sell abroad.

GET IN TOUCH

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