



## **Facilitation Measures on Import of Wine Introduced by C&ED**

Since July 1, 2008, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has introduced the following facilitation measures on wine imported by air and by sea inside “temperature-controlled containers”<sup>1</sup>.

2. Upon abolition of tax on wine, the import arrangements for wine are the same as those for general uncontrolled imports. That is, a wine importer or its agent may retrieve the above cargo at the control point concerned **promptly** if a cargo examination by the C&ED is not required.

3. If the C&ED deems it **necessary to conduct an examination** of the above cargo in order to confirm whether there is any contraband, a wine importer or its agents may lodge an application to the C&ED so that the examination will be conducted on the premises designated by the importer or its agent (for example, premises with temperature and humidity control facilities). Subject to the C&ED manpower deployment, an examination will generally be conducted on the premises designated by the importer or its agent (for example, premises with temperature and humidity control facilities) within two hours (for air cargo) or 24 hours (for sea cargo) **after** the receipt of an application submitted by the importer or its agent concerned.

4. The aforesaid facilitation measures are temporarily applicable

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<sup>1</sup> The wine industry opines that fine wine should be stored under an environment with temperature between 13 and 16°C. A “temperature-controlled container” is a cargo container in which the cargoes are kept at a certain temperature irrespective of any changes in the temperature outside the container.

only to wine imported by air and by sea inside “temperature-controlled containers” so that the cargoes may be kept in facilities equipped with temperature control during Customs examination to avoid any disturbance to the storage environment of the wine. The C&ED will review the arrangements from time to time according to the needs of the industry.

5. Should you have any enquiries concerning the aforesaid facilitation measures, please dial the following telephone numbers during office hours:

2116-4155 (air cargo)

3152-0111 (sea cargo)