



BEER, WINE & SPIRITS

4 THINGS TO PREPARE FOR GOING INTO 2022

The transportation market can be challenging, especially when it comes to importing beer, wine, and spirits into the U.S. However, there are many ways to create opportunities and ease those challenges in your supply chain. Here are four things to consider, specific to the U.S. Customs import clearance process, which may help prevent a hangover.

1 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CRAFT BEVERAGE MODERNIZATION ACT (CBMA)

The CBMA was enacted in December of 2020, which allowed for a permanent reduction in excise taxes associated with alcohol. Because this act is still fairly new, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is still working out the best ways to administer it.

Expeditors owns, develops, and maintains our own system for interacting with Customs in the U.S., which has allowed us to remain flexible and incorporate necessary system changes related to CBMA immediately. This helps ensure our importers, like you, can take advantage of the tax reductions offered by CBMA.

2 SAVE MONEY BY REDUCING YOUR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES (MPF)

Many importers choose to create cost savings by taking advantage of MPF maximums to reduce their MPF outlay to CBP. Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) are commonly used in order to take advantage of this solution; however, not all FTZs are licensed to handle alcohol, and entering freight into an FTZ can require additional planning and supply chain adjustments.

Expeditors offers a program called MPF Management, designed to systematically group your Customs entries to maximize your MPF fees and minimize risk, which allows you to save money and utilize your existing supply chain.

3 MOVE YOUR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCESS UPSTREAM

It can be hard to think about the U.S. Customs clearance process knowing that the transportation market is extremely volatile and is often full of delays.

Partnering with a customs broker that works proactively is essential. Expeditors has processes in place to obtain data and documentation related to upcoming imports in order to identify issues and file the entry as far upstream as possible. That way, once your freight is finally unloaded from that vessel, there are no customs-related issues to stand in the way of your freight!

4 ENSURE YOUR ENTRY DATA AND DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETE

Providing complete and accurate data is an integral part of managing costs related to Customs entries. A full set of required data, both for filing the Customs entry and the additional data required for imports of alcoholic beverages, can ensure the entry is filed timely and without need for entry corrections down the line. A full set of data also means your broker has to ask less questions, which means one less email in your inbox.

To help with identifying the gaps in your data and documents, Expeditors keeps track of the times and reasons we have to stop when preparing your entry. We can then provide this data for you to analyze and trend - ultimately working towards reducing or eliminating the gaps.