

Dear Mr. Tehan,

I am a Australian of Indian origin who has been exporting Aussie wines to India for last 5 years. I also have a import wing in India which imports our brands and distributes these Aussie products. We started with the state of West Bengal and now moving to Karnataka.

I understand you are currently in discussion with Minister Piyush Goyal on CECA. It is my humble request that you present the current challenges faced by Aussie wines in India at a Federal level, when wines from Australia arrive in Indian ports.

1. Imposition of 150% duty on CIF value of Australian Wines by Indian Customs. Whilst the actual Customs duty has reduced from 150% to 50% from April 2021 , the reduction has been offset by the introduction of a new Agricultural Infrastructure Development Cess. This cess is pegged at 100% on the CIF value of wines. Effectively the duty on the landed price has remain unchanged at 150%. For our wines to sell more in India we expect this duty to be rationalised and charged at no more than 25% on landed CIF value.
2. Mandatory lab examination of Australian wines at import port by Food Safety Authority of India is the second challenge. This process takes 7 to 10 business days to complete in India on top of customs examination. Strict labelling requirements means additional costs for India specific stickers need to be affixed before wines are loaded on to ships before departing from Australia. It is our wish that Australian wines accompanied with valid Chemical Analysis Certificate from NATA accredited laboratories and with a valid Country of Origin Certificate issued from Wine Australia should be exempt from checks by Food Safety Authority of India. We also request leniency on the labelling requirements.

I can assure you exports from Australia will increase significantly boosting our local economy and small business if the points mentioned above are addressed by Indian Government.

If you need more information I can be reached at + 61 418 318 832 and on a.basu@beyondwines.com.au

Kind Regards



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