

**Australian Government Department of Home Affairs**

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2018/44

**Customs Tariff Proposal No. 7 (2018-19)**

On 23 February 2018, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will publish draft legislation to simplify the duty payable on certain distilled spirits and liqueurs. The new duty rates will take effect on

1 March 2018 in Customs Tariff Working Pages 2 and 3, and on 1 April 2018 in the Australian Customs Notice (ACN) 2019/01.

**Changes to the Customs Tariff**

From 1 March 2018 the new duties and taxes will apply only to spirits which are wholly or partly derived from imported liqueurs, spirituous concentrates and syrups and which are not blended with other alcoholic substances or substances. For spirits which are wholly or partly derived from malt spirits or rice beverages, and which are not blended with other alcoholic substances or substances, the new duty rates apply to spirits derived from malt, rice and sugar.

The new goods also give effect to the earlier decision by the Australian Taxation Office that there are more complex and uncertain definitions for many of these goods.

1. The revised duty rates are:
2. The new duty rate is 1 per cent for spirits, wine and spirits products which are distilled from a spirituous concentrate or mixture of malt and/or rice products:

25 October 1996 Schedule 4/5

* The new duty rate is $39.24 per litre (the effective rate on 1 January 2019 is $31.45 per litre).
* The new duty rate applies for distilled spirits and beverages containing spirits or spirits products;
  1. The old duty rate of $39.24 per litre will remain in force for spirits and wine from 5 February 2019;
  2. The old duty rate of $31.45 per litre will remain in force for spirits and wines from 5 February 2020;

The new duty rate of $39.24 per litre will apply to distilled spirits and beverages containing whisky from 5 February 2020

* The new duty rate for distilled spirits and beverages containing whisky or whiskey products is $32.45 per litre.

The new rates are $3.23 per litre for spirits, $32.45 per litre for spirits and wines and $69.68 per litre for spirits and spirits products.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is proposing changes to the Tariff Act to enable more reasonable access to these products for importers and exporters.

The main objective of these proposed changes is to provide more certainty in the treatment of Scotch whisky, malt whisky, whisky products and spirits and spirits products where the content of the blend is not known.

The first important of these changes is to impose an excise liability on Scotch whisky and other products containing whisky.

The new excise liability will be $70.71 per litre.

Tariff reprint pages:

Tariff reprint pages 2/3 and 5/6, and the revised TCO Schedule 4/7. [tarcon@homeaffairs.gov.au.](mailto:tarcon@homeaffairs.gov.au)

The existing tariff reprint pages will be available on the ATO website and on the ATO Tariff Broker’s website at the same time:[www.abf.gov.au/form-](http://www.abf.gov.au/form-)

The ATO will publish the revised tariff reprint pages and the new TCO Schedule on the ATO’s website at the same time.

Customs Tariff pages for excise and customs duty on Scotch whisky and the value added tax (VAT) exemption for such products will also be issued in the week commencing 3 November 1996. [tarcon@homeaffairs.gov.au.](mailto:tarcon@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Enquiries

Regional Offices

In addition to the ATO website, the following regional offices may be consulted for further information:

Ports of Entry