



Cave Direct Ltd

CASE STUDY

Cave Direct is a UK's leading craft beer wholesaler, experts on craft beer imports and distribution. They are an independent family-owned business with over 40 years of experience, with a portfolio selected for its quality. All delivered direct using their own fleet of vehicles covering 90% of the UK.

In Partnership with



SGS



WHY DID CAVE DIRECT SEEK CUSTOMS SUPPORT?

The challenges that came about after Brexit, whereby imports need to be customs cleared out of Europe and declared using HMRC CHIEF – now CDS service. This led Cave into researching their customs options, with them looking to find a solution that resolved their customs challenges.

Louise Smale, Director at Cave explains, “we import beer from circa 30 breweries in Europe and collection is made using our own transport. The breweries all have different annual hectolitre production amounts, and the beers all have different alcohol by volumes, both of which contribute to the amount of excise to be paid to HMRC. We have been calculating these amounts for as long as we have been in business and have the formulas built into our ERP system. This enables us to check our entries for excise amounts owed before submission. It would be extremely time consuming and expensive to have an outside agent doing this for us.”

THE ROUTE TO CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE

Louise and her team at Cave looked their options for solutions to their customs obligations. Whether they outsource their import entries or handle them inhouse. Louise identified whichever route they chose would need to meet set criteria:

- Ensure minimal disruptions to the business activities
- Create entries correctly in a time sensitive manner

Cave’s collaboration with SGS started during their research on solutions, and developed during a phone call with Simon from SGS’ Trade Facilitation team. Louise and her team settled on eGTA software with SGS and becoming agents to operate their customs declarations themselves.

ABOUT eGTA

eGTA is an enterprise solution for international trade. It is browser-based software that seamlessly interfaces with business operating systems to generate commercial trade documents and clear goods at customs.

eGTA allows businesses to submit their own declarations with the customs module. The software speeds up declaration processing, gives businesses greater control and status of good are shown on screen in real-time.

HOW DO CAVE FEEL ABOUT EGTA?

“The user-friendly platform for customs entries, and the excellent help and training on the system has kept our customs entries easy and our beer trucks running smoothly. Without eGTA would make our operations more challenging.” Louise concludes.

ADVISE TO OTHER BUSINESSES

Cave’s advice to other businesses contemplating their customs challenges: “Become agents and sign up to the system. Why? Because customs entries can be complicated and there needs to be flexibility in the system always ending in customs compliance, Professional guidance is essential and a given with SGS.”

FUTURE PLANS FOR CAVE?

Cave are now able to also produce their own export documents needed for their empty kegs. Moreover, with their dynamic approach to business, they look forward to continued growth in the beer import market. SGS will continue their Trade support through their experts and look forward to future collaboration with Cave.

ABOUT SGS

We are SGS – the world’s leading testing, inspection, and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for sustainability, quality, and integrity. Our 99,600 employees operate a network of 2,600 offices and laboratories around the world.

To learn more about SGS customs solutions:

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