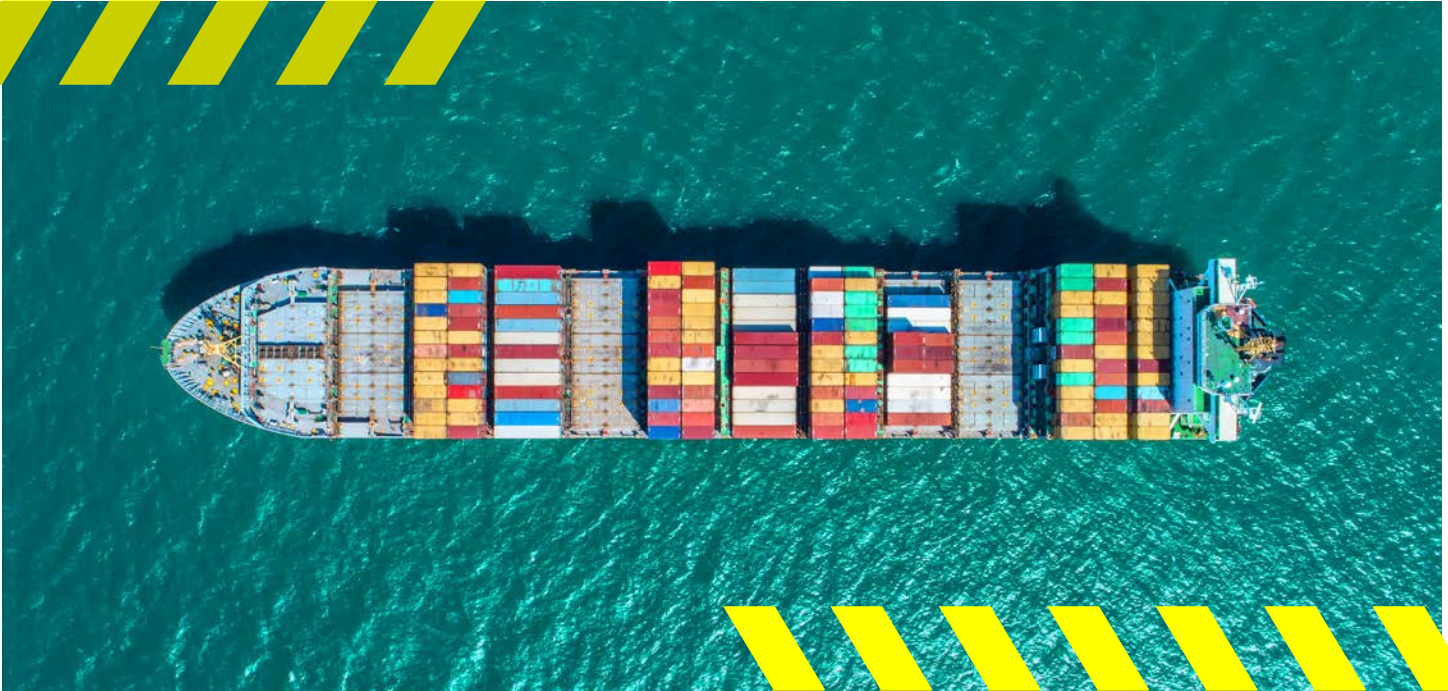**Aptean Food & Beverage ERP**

Confronting **Cross-Border Challenges** of Food and Beverage Enterprises with ERP Technology

For large food and beverage businesses, opening new facilities, launching new products and generally conducting more business all come with their own challenges, especially if you start working internationally. Depending on how you go about the process, you can end up with splintered supply chains, regulatory issues, miscommunications between partners, and even critical shortages or botched deliveries if you don't have the necessary tools to execute on a greater scale.

There are a lot of details that simply must be right to ensure that international operations go smoothly, but you don't have to just hope your own diligence will be enough to get the job done. Industry-specific enterprise resource planning (ERP) technology was developed to help enterprises like yours grow and maintain continuity in your operations even as your products cross borders.

Here, we'll cover a number of food and beverage ERP solutions' features that can make your life as a food and beverage business professional much easier.

Traceability You Can Trust for Supply Chain Excellence

As crucial a consideration as it is, **traceability** becomes even more important when you expand internationally. A sprawling supply chain that stretches across the globe means more critical tracking points, and higher volumes of materials and goods moving from point to point equals more data to capture.

Thankfully, food and beverage ERP systems are built to automatically collect and securely maintain all of the vital information tied to your ingredients and products. That includes country of origin, expiration dates, quantity, weight, grade and just about any other characteristic that could be pertinent to the item in question.

You'll want to make sure that whichever ERP platform you select has bi-directional tracing capabilities, as you need to be able to track both backwards and forwards across the supply chain. Advanced offerings like **Aptean Food & Beverage ERP** can also help you keep up with the various traceability requirements of different countries and regions.

Finally, keep in mind just how necessary complete traceability is in the case of food safety emergencies. You need to be able to find both the source of contamination, as well as the affected products downstream, as quickly as possible—and an ERP solution is the best way to achieve that level of visibility in real-time. Certain steps in the recall and withdrawal process can even be automated, further speeding up the process.

Complete Compliance Coverage

Regulatory bodies around the world are tightening their **compliance measures** to both protect public health and align with consumers' increasing demands for transparency. That means more pressure on your food and beverage enterprise to align with expectations and standards applicable by law. And that's made all the more complex by the fact that those standards change depending on where you're operating.

ERP systems simplify the matter by automating your compliance checks, letting you catch mistakes before they become serious problems, and giving you full visibility into your containers and shipments. The best solutions are built with many different sets of regional requirements in mind and can be configured to apply the rules of whichever locality your facilities or products might be in.

Documentation and forms are another consideration when it comes to adhering to regulations. ERP platforms generate what you need based on your shipments and their destinations, taking into account requirements for exports at customs. You don't need a critical delivery held up over paperwork, but you won't have to worry about that possibility with the right technology backing you up.

Multi-Language Support and Automatic Conversions

Two of the more obvious concerns when it comes to crossing international borders are language barriers and currency conversion difficulties. If you want to minimize miscommunications, maintain accurate records and ensure that your financials add up at the end of the day, it's vital that you have a plan for dealing with these considerations.

The right ERP system can streamline these matters, eliminating the need for translators or complex calculations. Good solutions have support for many different languages, enabling you to issue documents and other communications in a location-appropriate form, as well as automatic conversions between different monetary units and application of all necessary taxes and fees.

That level of flexibility goes a long way in facilitating your interactions with partners from various countries— what might otherwise be a major stumbling block can now be largely eliminated with a few simple configurations.

Robust Inventory Management Tools

When you're sourcing your materials from a vast number of suppliers and shipments are coming into and leaving your facilities all the time, keeping track of everything can be a tall task. Manually logging what you receive, consume and send to market wouldn't just be impractical for a large business—it would be impossible.

That's why you should trust in an ERP platform built for food and beverage enterprises to manage your inventory. Purpose-built offerings will be able to automatically record important information for everything that enters and departs your premises, and you can know at a glance where your ingredients are in the warehouse down to the lot number.

ERP systems also help prevent untimely shortages and stock-outs with automatic reordering when supplies get low. You'll never have to say "no" to an order due to unavailability when you can rest assured that replenishments are requested as soon as levels drop below your specified acceptable range.

Transportation Planning and Shipment Tracking

Longer distances to travel, more stops along the way and several transitions from vehicle to vehicle make transportation and shipping internationally far more complicated and prone to error when compared to domestic deliveries. These processes can be handled effectively, but it takes the right technology to do so.

ERP solutions for large food and beverage businesses are built with the tools to tackle this challenge. Advanced route planning ensures that the most efficient and cost-effective course is followed, while shipment tracking is further enhanced by integration of handheld scanners that can relay updates to your database in real-time.

With continuous tracking information at your fingertips, there's no need to worry about order fulfillment. You'll also have full control over your packaging and shipping conditions, which will ensure that your products get to their destinations undamaged, unspoiled and ready to be offered at retail or incorporated in foodservice settings.

Staying Agile While Operating Internationally

Food and beverage enterprises like yours can get bogged down in the many details that demand attention in the process of conducting international operations. It can be tough to keep everything straight when what's required varies from situation to situation, especially when your facilities and employees are thousands of miles apart.

Aptean Food & Beverage ERP *Enterprise Edition* is designed with this reality in mind and specifically suits businesses like yours with the features examined here and much more. Our decades of combined experience allows our teams to create functionalities that reflect industry best practices, so you're prepared even for the most complex of food and beverage challenges.

We're also software experts and pride ourselves on the reliability and security of our offerings. Aptean solutions are built on the foundation of the Microsoft Dynamics 365 platform, and our ongoing partnership with the technology leader keeps our systems on the cutting-edge while still being highly approachable for food and beverage production facility workers.
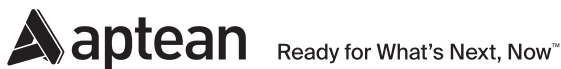
Eager to hear more about how Aptean Food & Beverage ERP *Enterprise Edition* can enable your food and beverage enterprise to successfully expand on an international scale? **Contact us today.**

Are You Ready to
Learn More?

Interested to see how Aptean Food & Beverage ERP *Enterprise Edition* can help you better manage your food enterprise?

Contact us at **info@aptean.com** or visit **www.aptean.com**.

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Aptean is one of the world's leading providers of industry-specific software. Our enterprise resource planning and supply chain solutions are uniquely designed to meet the needs of specialized manufacturers and distributors, while our compliance solutions serve specific markets such as finance and life sciences. With both cloud and on-premise deployment options, Aptean's products, services and unmatched expertise help businesses of all sizes, across many industries, to scale and succeed.

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