

0046451

From: Damon Smith [dsmith@ncsdirect.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 3:01 PM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 4'

name=Damon Smith
name=National Conversion Systems
Address1=22635 Davis Drive
Address2=Suite 120
City=Sterling
State=Va
Zip Code=20164

Comments=I support the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages (FMB) to be classified as beer. Adoption of the TTB 0.5 by volume standard would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process.

Moreover, equating beer and beverages that derive a majority of their alcohol content from distilled spirits could weaken the important distinctions between beer and products with higher alcohol content. Beer is not spirits. Beer is not fortified wine. It is important that beer consumers know what they are drinking.

Damon