PILOT BREWING PLANTS

There are cases where a business might want or need to produce beer for experimental or testing purposes where none of the beer will be sold.

Normal Pilot Brewing Plants

In cases where a company wishes to set up an experimental brewery to test equipment or recipes, they must qualify as a Pilot Brewing Plant, with TTB. They must submit the following documents as required by Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 25 (Sections 25.271 – 25.277):

☐ Letterhead Notice listing:
  o Name and address of the applicant
  o Description of the premises and equipment
  o Nature, purpose, and extent of the operations
  o Name and contact information of primary contact person responsible for operations

☐ Brewer’s Bond in the amount of at least $500.00, Form 5130.22 or Form 5130.25

All of these must be approved before operations can begin.

Commercial Breweries

Normal commercial breweries, which have already been approved by TTB, may conduct experimental and testing operations without addition of such paperwork in most cases. Please check with your National Revenue Center brewery for more details.

Small Experimental Breweries

In rare cases where the amount of beer produced by experimental operations falls under the limit of 100 gallons per year, that beer may be considered produced for personal use. In these instances, no approval is required from TTB. This is only allowed for individuals, not corporations, LLCs, or partnerships.