

# TTB Alcohol Beverage Sample Program

## 2014 Results

We selected 190 distilled spirits, 155 malt beverages, and 105 wines for the 2014 ABSP, with 450 total products included in the survey. After analyzing these products, we found 139 products that were non-compliant. By commodity, we found that 73 distilled spirits products, 46 malt beverage products, and 20 wine products were non-compliant. The most common compliance issues we identified involved alcohol content that did not match the label and was outside regulatory tolerances, or that placed the product in a different tax class than indicated by the label. On average, for distilled spirits, underproof products were 0.72% alcohol by volume below what was shown on the label, and over proof products were 0.34% alcohol by volume above what was shown on the label. These differences can lead to additional tax liability for the industry member. Another common compliance issue we identified involved labels that did not match their approved Certificate of Label Approval (COLA) due to changes that were not allowable revisions. Approximately 25% of the non-compliant labels contained changes in information, either mandatory or non-mandatory, which differed from the COLA. For a complete list of findings by commodity, see the charts below.

### 2014 Findings

#### *Distilled Spirits*

We identified 83 noncompliance issues in 73 different distilled spirits products.

Reasons for Noncompliance*	Number of Products
Alcohol content: over	42
Alcohol content: under	14
Government warning has errors	10
Non-mandatory information differs from the COLA	7
Mandatory information differs from the Certificate of Label Approval (COLA)	3
Prohibited practices	2
Other: Paste over label	1
Other: Mandatory information on wrong label	1
Statement of average analysis or serving facts statement is missing or is incorrect	1
No COLA	1
Class, type, or statement of composition is incorrect	1
<b>Total Instances of Noncompliance</b>	<b>83</b>

[\\*Definitions of Non-Compliance Categories](#)

## Malt Beverages

We identified 61 noncompliance issues in 46 different malt beverage products.

Reasons for Noncompliance*	Number of Products
Alcohol content: under	18
Alcohol content: over	16
Non-mandatory information differs from the COLA	10
Mandatory information is missing	4
Government warning has errors	4
Mandatory information differs from the Certificate of Label Approval (COLA)	2
No COLA	2
Type-size/legibility	2
Other: Mandatory information on wrong label	1
Class, type, or statement of composition is incorrect	1
Prohibited practices	1
<b>Total Instances of Noncompliance</b>	<b>61</b>

[\\*Definitions of Non-Compliance Categories](#)

## Wine

We identified 25 noncompliance issues in 20 different wine products.

Reasons for Noncompliance*	Number of Products
Non-mandatory information differs from the COLA	11
Mandatory information differs from the Certificate of Label Approval (COLA)	5
Alcohol content: under	3
Tax class	3
Alcohol content: over	1
Class, type, or statement of composition is incorrect	1
No COLA	1
<b>Total Instances of Noncompliance</b>	<b>25</b>

[\\*Definitions of Non-Compliance Categories](#)