

maintenance records. The rule's rationale is to require motor carriers to give sufficient attention to the proper maintenance of their vehicles, since poorly maintained vehicles can cause accidents. The rule was controversial when it was revised in 1979 because of the need for carrier certification and the "on-board" requirement for the driver's vehicle inspection report. One focus of a review would be on ways of reducing recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Numbers 20.205, Highway Research, Planning, and Construction, and 20.217, Motor Carrier Safety. The provisions of OMB Circular No. A-95 regarding State and local clearinghouse review of Federal and federally assisted programs and projects apply to Program Number 20.205)

Issued on: April 8, 1981.

R. A. Barnhart,

Federal Highway Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

27 CFR Part 9

[Notice No. 371]

Shenandoah Valley Viticultural Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is considering the establishment of a viticultural area in Amador County, California, to be known as "Shenandoah Valley." This proposal is the result of a petition submitted by members of the grape-growing industry. ATF feels that the establishment of viticultural areas and the subsequent use of viticultural area names as appellations of origin in wine labeling and advertising will help consumers identify the wines they may purchase.

DATES: Written comments must be received by June 12, 1981.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, P.O. Box 385, Washington, DC 20044, (Notice No. 371).

Copies of the petition, the proposed regulations, the appropriate maps, and the written comments will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at: ATF Reading Room, Room 4407, Federal Building, 12th and

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. J. Ference, Research and Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20226 (202-566-7626).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 23, 1978, ATF published Treasury Decision ATF-53 (43 Fr 37672, 54624) revising regulations in 27 CFR Part 4. These regulations allow the establishment of definite viticultural areas. The regulations also allow the name of an approved viticultural area to be used as an appellation of origin on wine labels and in wine advertisements.

On October 2, 1979, ATF published Treasury Decision ATF-60 (44 FR 56692) which added a new Part 9 to 27 CFR, providing for the listing of approved American viticultural areas, the names of which may be used as appellations of origin.

Section 4.25a(e)(1), Title 27, CFR, defines an American viticultural area as a delimited grape-growing region distinguishable by geographical features.

Section 4.25a(e)(2) outlines the procedure for proposing an American viticultural area. Any interested person may petition ATF to establish a grape-growing region as a viticultural area. The petition should include—

(a) Evidence that the name of the proposed viticultural area is locally and/or nationally known as referring to the area specified in the petition;

(b) Historical or current evidence that the boundaries of the viticultural area are as specified in the petition;

(c) Evidence relating to the geographical characteristics (climate, soil, elevation, physical features, etc.) which distinguish the viticultural features of the proposed area from surrounding areas;

(d) A description of the specific boundaries of the viticultural area, based on features which can be found on United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) maps of the largest applicable scale; and

(e) A copy of the appropriate U.S.G.S. map with the boundaries prominently marked.

Petition

ATF has received a petition proposing an area in Amador County, California, as a viticultural area to be known as "Shenandoah Valley." The area consists of approximately 10,000 acres. Shenandoah Valley is situated to the

north and west of Fiddletown, California, and to the north and east of Plymouth, California, in Amador County, California.

The petitioner claims that the proposed viticultural area is distinguished from the surrounding areas geographically. The petitioner bases this claim on the following:

(a) The principal grape-producing soil in the Shenandoah Valley is the Sierra Series. This series consists of well-drained deep and moderately deep soils formed in material from granitic rock. These soils are gently sloping to very steep.

(b) The surface soil primarily consists of various loams, particularly coarse sandy loam. The subsoil primarily consists of heavy loam or clay loam. The depth to weathered bedrock ranges from 20 inches to more than 60 inches.

(c) A few vineyards in the Shenandoah Valley have been established on Ahwahnee Series and also Shenandoah Series soils.

(d) Based on the University of California at Davis heat summation scale, the Shenandoah Valley was categorized as a Region III or as a Region IV for the years 1962 through 1966.

Historical and current usage of the name "Shenandoah Valley" is supported by the following:

(a) In 1881, J. D. Mason, in his "History of Amador County", mentions choice grapes being grown in the Shenandoah Valley.

(b) A 1927 book "Amador County History" refers to this area as Shenandoah Valley;

(c) Soil survey maps of Amador County, California, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and dated Series 1961, identify the areas as the Shenandoah Valley;

(d) U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle map, (topographic) titled Fiddletown Quadrangle California and dated 1949, identifies the area as the Shenandoah Valley; and

(e) An area school has included "Shenandoah" in its name.

The boundaries of the proposed Shenandoah Valley viticultural area may be found on two U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle maps (Fiddletown Quadrangle California and Amador City Quadrangle California-Amador Co.).

The boundaries, as proposed by the petitioner, are described in proposed § 9.37.

Viticultural Area Name

The Bureau is very concerned about the likelihood of consumer confusion

concerning grape origin if the name "Shenandoah Valley" is used to identify this viticultural area.

Public Participation—Written Comments

ATF requests comments concerning this proposed viticultural area from all interested persons. This document proposes possible boundaries for the Shenandoah Valley viticultural area. However, comments concerning other possible boundaries for this viticultural area will be considered.

The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, for which this area of California was named, is well known. Comments concerning these two geographically designated names are particularly requested.

Comments received before the closing date will be carefully considered. Comments received after the closing date and too late for consideration will be treated as possible suggestions for future ATF action.

ATF will not recognize any material in comments as confidential. Comments may be disclosed to the public. Any material which a commenter considers to be confidential or inappropriate for disclosure to the public should not be included in the comment. The name of the person submitting a comment is not exempt from disclosure.

Any interested person who desires an opportunity to comment orally at a public hearing on these proposed regulations should submit his or her request, in writing, to the Director within the 60-day comment period. The Director, however, reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether a public hearing will be held.

Drafting Information

The principal author of this document is E. J. Ference, Research and Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. However, other personnel of the Bureau and of the Treasury Department have participated in the preparation of this document, both in matters of substance and style.

Authority

Accordingly, under the authority in 27 U.S.C. 205, the Director proposes the amendment of 27 CFR Part 9 as follows:

PART 9—AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS

Paragraph 1. The table of sections in 27 CFR Part 9, Subpart C, is amended to add the title of § 9.37 to read as follows:

Subpart C—Approved American Viticultural Areas

Sec.

* * * * *
9.37 Shenandoah Valley.

Par. 2. Subpart C is amended by adding § 9.37 to read as follows:

Subpart C—Approved American Viticultural Areas

* * * * *

§ 9.37 Shenandoah Valley.

(a) *Name.* The name of the viticultural area described in this section is "Shenandoah Valley."

(b) *Approved maps.* The appropriate maps for determining the boundaries of the Shenandoah Valley viticultural area are two U.S.G.S. maps. The maps are titled: "Fiddletown Quadrangle California" 7.5 minute series and "Amador City Quadrangle California-Amador Co." 7.5 minute series.

(c) *Boundaries.* The Shenandoah Valley viticultural area is located in Amador County, California. The boundaries are as follows:
The line starts at the point where the boundary of Amador County and El Dorado County meets Big Indian Creek. The line then proceeds south, following Big Indian Creek, until Big Indian Creek meets the boundary between Sections 1 and 2 of Township 7 North Range 10 East. The line then follows this boundary south until it meets the Oleta (Fiddletown) Road. The line then follows the Oleta Road east until it meets the boundary between Sections 6 and 5 of Township 7 North Range 11 East. The line follows that boundary north into Township 8 North Range 11 East, and continues north on the boundary between Sections 31 and 32 until this boundary meets Big Indian Creek. The line then follows Big Indian Creek in a northeasterly direction until Big Indian Creek meets the boundary between Sections 28 and 27 of Township 8 North Range 11 East. The line then follows this boundary north until it reaches the southeast corner of Section 21 of Township 8 North Range 11 East. The line then proceeds east, then north, then west along the boundary of the western half of Section 22 of Township 8 North Range 11 East to the intersection of Sections 16, 15, 21, and 22. The line then proceeds north along the boundary between Sections 16 and 15 of Township 8 North Range 11 East and continues north along the boundary of Sections 9 and 10 of Township 8 North Range 11 East until the line meets the boundary between Amador County and El Dorado County. The line then continues west following the Amador/El Dorado County Line to the starting point.

Signed: March 18, 1981.

Stephen E. Higgins,
Deputy Director.

Approved: April 6, 1981.

John P. Simpson,
Acting Assistant Secretary (Enforcement and Operations).

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27 CFR Part 19

[Notice No. 370]

Reporting Taxes Due to the Insular Governments on Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands Spirits Bottled in the United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is issuing this notice of proposed rulemaking to obtain comment from the public on revising the reporting requirements for Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands spirits bottled by domestic distilled spirits plant proprietors. This reporting requirement forms the basis for remittance or settlement of tax accounts between the United States and the treasuries of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before June 15, 1981.

ADDRESS: Send comments to Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, P.O. Box 385, Washington, DC 20044, Notice No. 370.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. J. Ference or Edward J. Sheehan, Research and Regulations Branch, 202-566-7626.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice revises the reporting requirement for proprietors of domestic distilled spirits plants bottling Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands spirits. Following is a discussion of previous, existing, and proposed requirements, and of the reasons for this proposed change.

Previous Regulations

Prior to the implementation of the Distilled Spirits Tax Revision Act of 1979 on January 1, 1980, Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands spirits to be bottled in domestic distilled spirits plants were tax determined in bulk and reported on ATF Form 179, Withdrawal of Spirits Tax Determined, prior to processing and bottling (i.e., upon removal from bonded