



Announcement

September 30, 2016

TTB Issues Two Rulings and an Industry Circular Reducing the Need to Submit Formulas and Samples for Analysis for Certain Wines and Distilled Spirits

On September 29, 2016, TTB issued two rulings:

- [TTB Ruling 2016-2: TTB Approves General-Use Formulas for Certain Agricultural Wines](#)
- [TTB Ruling 2016-3: TTB Approves General-Use Formulas for Certain Distilled Spirits Produced Using Harmless Coloring, Flavoring, or Blending Materials](#)

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce for industry members the regulatory burdens associated with formula approval and to increase administrative efficiencies for the Bureau, consistent with our mission to protect the public and collect the revenue, we have reviewed the formula requirements for certain agricultural wines and distilled spirits products to determine where our formula review process could be streamlined and modernized. As a result of this review, we determined that we can approve general-use formulas for certain agricultural wines and distilled spirits products made in accordance with standards found in the TTB regulations in 27 CFR parts 4 and 5, respectively.

Effective immediately, industry members may make products covered by these rulings without submitting a formula for TTB approval if the products are made in accordance with the general-use formulas in these rulings. For more details on the specific products covered and on the general-use formulas, please consult the rulings.

We encourage all industry members to review these Rulings and the Industry Circular to determine whether formula approvals are still required for your products. Industry members who have formulas with TTB awaiting review or approval for products affected by the new rulings should withdraw those applications immediately. If they are not withdrawn, we will reject those formula applications with a comment that a formula submission is not required

for that product. Industry members who receive this message or withdraw their applications may proceed to apply for label approval through [COLAs Online](#).

Also on September 29, TTB issued [Industry Circular 2016-1, Elimination of Certain Pre-COLA Product Evaluation Requirements \(Formulas or Laboratory Analysis\) for Certain Alcohol Beverage Products](#). This industry circular amplifies [Industry Circular 2007-4](#), “Pre-COLA Product Evaluation,” by announcing that:

- We are eliminating pre-COLA evaluation requirements (i.e., formulas and/or laboratory analysis) for certain domestic and imported wines and distilled spirits products; and
- We are separating and republishing the charts first published with Industry Circular 2007-4 as guidance documents that we can update individually when changes are made to formula requirements. Industry Circular 2007-4 will remain in effect, but we will update the charts on an ongoing basis as formula requirements are revised.

The charts are now numbered and titled as follows:

- [TTB G 2016-1, Pre-COLA Product Evaluations for Malt Beverages](#)
- [TTB G 2016-2, Pre-COLA Product Evaluations for Wine Products](#)
- [TTB G 2016-3, Pre-COLA Product Evaluations for Distilled Spirits Products](#)

Industry members should consult these charts to determine whether and under what conditions a formula or pre-COLA product evaluation is required for their products.

Questions? Contact the Advertising, Labeling and Formulation Division at 202-453-2250, or toll free 866-927-AFLD (2533), or via email at alfd@ttb.gov.