



Distilled Spirits Formulas

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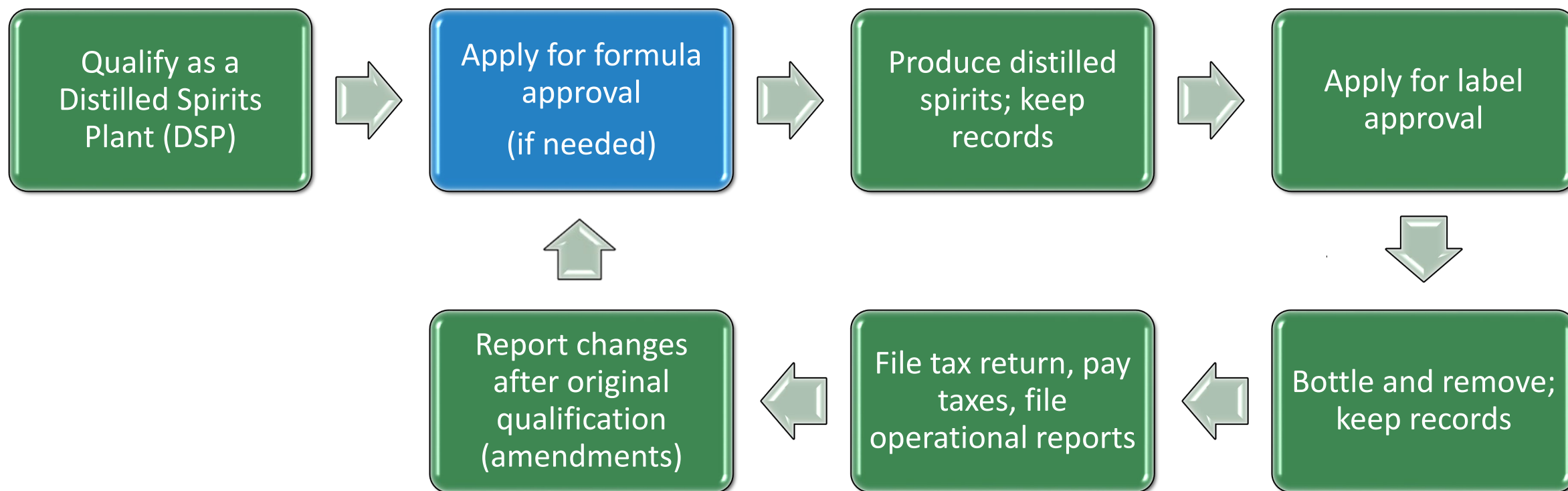
TTB Disclaimer

Notice:

- This information is being presented to help the public to understand and comply with the laws and regulations that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau administers
- It is not intended to establish any new, or change any existing, definitions, interpretations, standards, or procedures regarding those laws and regulations
- In addition, this presentation may be made obsolete by changes in laws and regulations - please consult the regulations for the most current regulatory requirements
- Sample documents (such as records, returns, and labels) are for illustrative purposes only and contain fictitious data



Typical TTB Lifecycle for Beverage Distilled Spirits Industry Members





Common Formula Questions

- What is a formula?
- Why is a formula required?
- When is a formula required?
- At what stage do I apply for formula approval?
- How do I apply for formula approval?



What is a Formula?

A formula is the recipe for your distilled spirit product

- It must include:
 - a total yield, or batch size
 - a list of all ingredients by quantity
 - a description of how the product is made
- In some instances a sample of the product must also be submitted to TTB for laboratory analysis

See [Formula Basics](#) page on TTB.gov



Why is a Formula Required?

We use the information found in the formula to:

- Classify the product for tax and labeling purposes
- Ensure that the product does not contain any prohibited ingredients
- Determine if limited ingredients are used within prescribed limitations or if they will impact labeling
- Provide a suggested statement of composition for labeling purposes



When is a Formula Required?

Generally, formula approval is required when a distilled spirit contains:

- Artificial sweeteners
- Carbonation
- Compounded/artificial/imitation flavors
- Ingredients derived from hemp
 - See webinar presentation: [Using Hemp and Hemp Derivatives in Alcohol Beverages](#)
- In addition, certain classes/types of distilled spirits always require formula approval



Which Distilled Spirits Require Formula Approval?

Use our online tool [Which Alcohol Beverages Require Formula Approval?](#) or check the list in [TTB G 2016-3](#) to learn which products require formula approval

Which Alcohol Beverages Require Formula Approval?

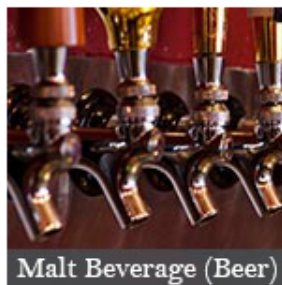
For certain distilled spirits, beers/malt beverages, and wines, TTB must evaluate the ingredients and production process before the product can be made or imported, and before you can submit your labels to TTB (if required). In some cases we also analyze a sample of the product in our laboratory while reviewing the formula.

Select your commodity, then answer a few questions about your product and we'll tell you whether it needs formula approval:



Distilled Spirits

Start



Malt Beverage (Beer)

Start



Wine/Cider

Start



At What Stage do I Apply for Formula Approval?

Domestic - if required, must be obtained prior to producing the distilled spirit

Imported - if required, must be obtained prior to applying for a certificate of label approval



How Do I Apply for Formula Approval?

- **Formulas Online**
 - Step-by-step guidance
 - Data validation checks along the way
 - Application status updates via email
- [Formulas Online Customer Page](#)
- See webinar presentation: [How to Register and Submit Formulas through Formulas Online](#)





Tips for Speedy Formula Approval – Don't Forget to Supply:

- Flavor Ingredient Data Sheet (FIDS) when the product is made with compounded flavors
- Limited Ingredient Calculation Worksheet when the product is made with more than one compounded flavor
- Ingredient Specification Sheet (Spec Sheet) when the product is made with ingredients composed of more than one component (e.g., a sweetener made with honey and sucralose)

A compounded flavor is one you purchase from a flavor manufacturer



Tips for Speedy Formula Approval – Don't Forget to Supply:

- The common name and scientific name (genus and species) for any unusual herbal ingredients
- Information about the base spirit used to make a product:
 - TTB formula ID number;
 - Approved TTB formula; or
 - A complete list of ingredients/method of manufacture

Note: be sure to include proof at distillation!

Note: *Before submitting your formula, ensure all ingredients are considered “food safe” under FDA regulations, e.g., that they are Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS)*



Where can I find more information?

- [Formula Approval guidance pages on TTB.gov](#)
- [Distilled Spirits Beverage Alcohol Manual \(BAM\)](#)
 - [BAM Chapter 1](#): Commodity Statements
 - [BAM Chapter 4](#): Quick product reference guide stating basic technical requirements
 - [BAM Chapter 7](#): Provides chart listing limitations placed on harmless coloring blending and flavoring materials (HCBFM)

Contact Us

For more information about formulas, contact the [Alcohol Labeling and Formulation Division](#) at 866-927-2533, or send us a message using our [Online Contact Form](#)



Are Formulas Required for all Products?

No, not all products require formula review

Time saving resources:

- [Which Alcohol Beverages Require Formula Approval Tool](#)
- [TTB G 2016-3 - Pre-COLA Product Evaluations for Distilled Spirits Products](#)
- [TTB G 2017-5 - Alcohol Beverage Formula Approval with Lab Sample Analysis](#)
- [TTB Ruling 2016-3 - TTB Approves General-Use Formulas for Certain Distilled Spirits Produced Using Harmless Coloring, Flavoring, or Blending Materials](#)