

June 17, 2011

To Our Industry Members and Representatives:

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) has updated the Certificate/Exemption of Label/Bottle Approval (COLA) form (TTB F 5100.31) to improve our data collection. TTB F 5100.31 (dated 5/2011) now requests information about any grape varietals that you display on your wine labels. It also consolidates all pre-COLA evaluation items (see Industry Circular 2007-4), which is now recognized under one data field – "Formula". This change is consistent with TTB's Formulas Online database.

We are updating COLAs Online to incorporate these changes. When we update the electronic system, applicants will not see an immediate change to the data collection portion of the electronic application and should not change the manner in which they apply, but their approvals will contain the new data fields. An additional update to COLAs Online is expected to take place in December 2011, and at that time the system will be updated to request grape varietal information as item 10 of the electronic application. From now until the expected December 2011 update, item 10 will remain blank on all electronically filed COLA approvals with nothing more required from COLA applicants.

The new paper version of the COLA form is not impacted by the data collection issue identified above for the electronic applications. Therefore, paper applicants are expected to complete all relevant items on the COLA application form, including item 10 for grape varietal information displayed on their wine labels. We will be able to capture this information in our database during the data entry process.

The new COLA form is now available online. We will continue to accept paper applications using the previous version of the COLA form until December 30, 2011.

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