

0040584
LDC

Lawrence Distributing Company
Danville, VA 24541

--Distributors of Fine Beverages ---
August 7, 2003

TTB Notice No.4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

Lawrence Distributing Company supports the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. Specifically, the TTB proposes that for an FMB to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

We feel that if traditional distinctions disappear, it will only be a matter of time before other producers of alcohol beverages attempt to categorize themselves as beer products.

Beer is different. It is not made through the distillation process; it is made through the brewing process. The 0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

On behalf of my distributorship, I encourage you to give final approval to the proposed standard.

Sincerely,

Billy B. Lawrence
President