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Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
TTB FOIA Requester Service Center  
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[FOIA.gov - Freedom of Information Act](https://www.foia.gov)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX AND TRADE BUREAU  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

March 31, 2021

Refer to: **2021-02-040**  
4040000

SENT VIA EMAIL

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) dated February 6, 2021. You are requesting copies of the "10 most recent editions of the TTB Weekly Activity Report, prepared by the Regulations and Rulings Division."

We conducted a search of files within TTB for records responsive to your request and identified 31 pages which are being released in part, with information exempt from disclosure under the FOIA having been redacted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), and/or (b)(6) (FOIA exemptions 3, 4, 5 and/or 6, respectively).

FOIA exemption 3 provides an exemption from disclosure for information specifically exempted from disclosure by another statute, if that statute establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) (26 U.S.C. 6103) prohibits disclosure of returns and return information unless disclosure is specifically authorized under the IRC. "Returns" and "return information" are defined within Section 6103 of the IRC, but return information includes most of the information collected pursuant to the IRC. We are not aware of any specific statutory authorization contained in the IRC that would permit disclosure of such information to you.

FOIA exemption 4 protects from disclosure "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential." In this production, we have applied FOIA exemption 4 to confidential business information that is furnished by industry members pursuant to the Federal Alcohol Administration Act, although this exemption also applies to return information of a commercial nature obtained from the taxpayer-owner of the return information.

FOIA exemption 5 applies to records which are protected by established privileges, including the "deliberative process privilege." This privilege protects the integrity of the deliberative or decision-making processes within an agency by

exempting from mandatory disclosure opinions, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters. The bureau has determined that the release of this internal information would likely diminish the expression of candid opinions and inhibit the free-flow exchange of information among agency personnel. For those reasons and with respect to that information, we apply FOIA exemption 5.

FOIA exemption 6 protects from disclosure personnel and similar files, including names, signatures, and/or contact information of certain individuals, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. For that reason and with respect to that information, we have applied FOIA exemption 6.

Certain additional information that ultimately may or may not be properly withheld under a FOIA exemption has been redacted from these responsive records pending consultation with another Federal agency. We will update this response to your request once the questions on releasability are resolved.

Enclosed is a Document Cover Sheet with your appeal rights outlined on the reverse side. If you choose to appeal this interim response, you must do so within 90 days from the date of this letter. However, as we are continuing to process your request, we ask that you hold any appeals in abeyance pending the issuance of a final response. You will also have 90 days from your receipt of the final response to exercise your appeal rights.

Please note that a FOIA Public Liaison is available if you would like to discuss any issues regarding a FOIA response. A FOIA Public Liaison is a supervisory official with the Department of the Treasury to whom FOIA requesters can raise questions or concerns about the agency's FOIA process. FOIA Public Liaisons can explain agency records, suggest agency offices that may have responsive records, provide an estimated date of completion, and discuss how to reformulate and/or reduce the scope of requests in order to minimize fees and expedite processing time.

If you would like to discuss this response, perhaps to resolve a dispute before filing an appeal, you may contact Mark Bittner, the FOIA Public Liaison, by email at [FOIAPL@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIAPL@treasury.gov) or by phone at (202) 622-8098.


If you are unable to resolve a FOIA dispute through the FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), please note that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:


Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: 202-741-5769

Please be advised that contacting an agency official (including the Disclosure Officer, FOIA Public Liaison) and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90-day appeal clock.

Please note we are charging no fee for processing your request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, feel free to contact Quinton Mason, TTB Disclosure Officer, by telephone at (202) 882-9904 or by e-mail at [TTBFOIA@ttb.gov](mailto:TTBFOIA@ttb.gov), and reference FOIA number **2021-02-040**.

Sincerely,

  
Amy R. Greenberg  
Director, Regulations and Rulings Division

 Digitally signed by Amy R.  
Greenberg  
Date: 2021.03.31 11:38:42 -04'00'

Enclosure(s): As stated





DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX AND TRADE BUREAU  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

May 12, 2021

Refer to: **2021-02-040**  
4040000

SENT VIA EMAIL

This is the second and final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) dated February 6, 2021. You are requesting copies of the 10 most recent editions of the TTB Weekly Activity Report, prepared by the Regulations and Rulings Division.

As we explained in our initial response, dated March 31, 2021, we conducted a search of files within TTB for records responsive to your request and identified 31 pages, which were emailed to you along with our initial response on March 31, 2021, with information exempt from disclosure under the FOIA having been redacted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), and/or (b)(6) (FOIA exemptions 3, 4, 5 and/or 6, respectively).

You were also advised that we had redacted from those records certain additional information, pending consultation with another Federal agency regarding disclosure under the FOIA.

After consulting with the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), this information is being withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemption 1. (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1)) FOIA exemption 1 protects from disclosure records that are "specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and ... are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order."

In this instance, FOIA exemption 1 applies to information exchanged in the context of the US-UK Trade and Investment Working Group, that is properly classified at the confidential level under a confidentiality agreement between the governments of the United States and United Kingdom. You may view this confidentiality agreement in the [USTR FOIA Library](#). The information withheld was classified as confidential under the authority of Executive Order 13526 (Dec. 29, 2009).

Enclosed is a Document Cover Sheet with your appeal rights outlined on the reverse side. If you choose to appeal this response, you must do so within 90 days from the date of this letter.

Please note that a FOIA Public Liaison is available if you would like to discuss any issues regarding a FOIA response. A FOIA Public Liaison is a supervisory official with the Department of the Treasury to whom FOIA requesters can raise questions or concerns about the agency's FOIA process. FOIA Public Liaisons can explain agency records, suggest agency offices that may have responsive records, provide an estimated date of completion, and discuss how to reformulate and/or reduce the scope of requests in order to minimize fees and expedite processing time.

If you would like to discuss this response, perhaps to resolve a dispute before filing an appeal, you may contact Mark Bittner, the FOIA Public Liaison, by email at [FOIAPL@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIAPL@treasury.gov) or by phone at (202) 622-8098.


If you are unable to resolve a FOIA dispute through the FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), please note that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: 202-741-5769

Please be advised that contacting an agency official (including the Disclosure Officer, FOIA Public Liaison) and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90-day appeal clock.

Please note we are charging no fee for processing your request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, feel free to contact Quinton Mason, TTB Disclosure Officer, by telephone at (202) 882-9904 or by e-mail at [TTBFOIA@ttb.gov](mailto:TTBFOIA@ttb.gov), and reference FOIA number **2021-02-040**.

Sincerely,

  
Amy R. Greenberg  
Director, Regulations and Rulings Division

Digitally signed by

Amy R. Greenberg

Date: 2021.05.12

21:04:12 -04'00'

Enclosure(s): As stated



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

January 8, 2021

4040000: (b) (6)  
9200

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending January 8, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

***Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week***

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

***Section 1 – Travel and Events***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities***

Nothing to Report.



Weekly Report for Week Ending January 8, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities**

**TTB Receives Clean Opinion on Financial Statements, for Twelfth Consecutive**

**Year:** TTB has received an unmodified opinion (generally referred to as a clean opinion) on its 2020 financial statements, and related notes, for the twelfth consecutive year. In 2009, TTB wanted to add accountability within TTB operations and credibility with stakeholders to the Bureau's annual report, which includes financial statements, information on Bureau operations, and annual performance data. As a result, TTB requested that the Department of the Treasury's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit the Bureau's annual financial statements. The OIG agreed and contacted a Certified Public Accounting firm to act as an independent auditor. This audit gives TTB reasonable assurance that the Bureau's financial statements are correct and prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles. Since the inception of the annual audit in 2009, TTB has received 12 consecutive clean opinions.

**TTB Adjusts Renewal Periods for Chemist Certification Program Due to COVID-19:**

Under our Chemist Certification Program, TTB certifies private industry chemists to analyze wine, distilled spirits, and beer for export markets according to TTB Procedure 2018-2. The program ensures that chemists can generate quality data and have the proficiencies necessary to conduct chemical analyses required to export alcohol beverages. The program has two cycles (spring and fall), and certifications are normally valid for two years. In 2020, due the impact of COVID-19, TTB suspended the spring 2020 cycle, and all certificates that were set to expire on June 30, 2020, were automatically extended through the end of the fall 2020 cycle, December 31, 2020. Applications for renewal received for the spring 2020 cycle were processed during the fall 2020 cycle.

In order to maintain the original two-year renewal timeframes for those on the spring cycle, all chemists whose certificates were extended through December 31, 2020, and who re-qualified during the fall 2020 cycle, received certificates dated July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022. Renewal certificates for those on the fall cycle were dated January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, consistent with the regular fall cycle. TTB currently has 104 chemists

Weekly Report for Week Ending January 8, 2021

certified to analyze wine, 78 chemists certified to analyze distilled spirits, and 113 chemists certified to analyze beer.

***Section 2 – News Affecting Industry***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings***

Nothing to Report.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

January 15, 2021

4040000:  
9200

(b) (6)

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending January 15, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

**Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week**

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

**Section 1 – Travel and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities**

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending January 15, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities<sup>1</sup>**

**TTB Publishes Study in Scientific Journal:** TTB published a research paper in *Chromatographia, An International Journal for Separation Science*, titled “Simultaneous Quantification of Ethanol and Propylene Glycol in Nonbeverage Alcohol Products Using Gas Chromatography Flame Ionization Detection.” This paper, published in the January 2021 issue, provides details for the quantitative determination of ethanol and propylene glycol in nonbeverage products. Nonbeverage products include foods, flavors, medicines, and perfumes. TTB developed and validated the method to routinely analyze the alcohol and propylene glycols contents in nonbeverage samples for formula compliance and tax classification purposes. The publication provides transparency to industry members about the method TTB uses and allows industry to implement the method for their own quality control use. Publication of methods in scientific papers in reputed peer reviewed journals provides assurance that methods are based on good scientific principles, and are accepted by the scientific community. This work enhances TTB’s technical capability in nonbeverage products regulation and supports the reputation of TTB’s technical competency in the relevant scientific community.

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

Weekly Report for Week Ending January 15, 2021

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**TTB Participates in Interagency Clean Water Act Meeting:** On January 13, TTB attended the monthly Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Interagency Working Group meeting. Section 401 of the CWA requires that any applicant for a Federal license or permit whose proposed operations may result in a discharge into navigable waters must provide a certification from the State certifying authority where the discharge originates that the discharge complies with all applicable water quality requirements. When a permit applicant's proposed operations are subject to this certification requirement, the Federal permitting agency may not issue a permit unless the applicant provides the required certification or proof of waiver. These regular meetings provide an opportunity for EPA to update the various Federal permitting agencies on any new guidance issued by EPA relating to the CWA Section 401 certification process and for Federal permitting agencies to raise questions concerning their own implementation of the Section 401 process to EPA. At this meeting, EPA shared recently-published contact information to be used to fulfill the EPA-notice requirements under Section 401, and the Federal permitting agencies provided relevant implementation updates. EPA originally convened this working group to get comments and feedback while it was finalizing its section 401 regulations. Now, the group focuses on information sharing between its member-agencies.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator





**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

January 22, 2021

4040000: (b) (6)  
9200

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending January 22, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

***Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week***

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

***Section 1 – Travel and Events***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities***

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending January 22, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities<sup>1</sup>**



**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

**TTB Makes Performance Gains in Permit, Label, and Formula Approvals:** TTB made substantial performance gains in the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2021 toward two strategic performance goals. Regarding the first, TTB is on track to achieve its strategic performance goal to “Ensure the Effective and Timely Business Qualification of Alcohol Commodity Industry Members.” Through this goal, TTB works to improve reliable service to alcohol industry members.

- *Goal: Process original business permit applications within 75 days 85 percent of the time.* TTB exceeded this goal in the first quarter and is on track to meet the annual goal. The Bureau processed applications within 75 days 92 percent of the time, with most original applications processed in 35 days or less. TTB also reduced the backlog of pending original applications to 40 percent year-over-year.
- *Goal: Process amended permit applications within 65 days 85 percent of the time.* TTB did not meet this goal in the first quarter but is on track to meet the annual goal. The Bureau processed applications within 65 days 83 percent of the time. We

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

## Weekly Report for Week Ending January 22, 2021

processed most amended applications in 25 days or less; and reduced the backlog of pending amended permits to 47 percent year-over-year.

Secondly, TTB's first quarter of FY 2021 puts the Bureau on track to achieve its strategic performance goal to "Facilitate Commerce through a Modern Labeling Program." Through this goal, TTB works to improve reliable service and increase voluntary compliance for beverage alcohol industry members.

- *Goal: Process label and formula applications within 15 days 85 percent of the time.* TTB exceeded this goal in the first quarter and is on track to meet the annual goal. The Bureau processed 91 percent of label applications and 93 percent of formula applications within 15 days. In fact, TTB processed most label and formula applications in 10 days or less.
- *Goal: Reduce industry member errors on formula applications to 25 percent or less.* TTB did not meet the goal in the first quarter but is on track to meet the annual goal. The Bureau returned formula applications for corrections 30.7 percent of the time. TTB improved on the overall FY 2020 formula application error rate of 34.8 percent.

On these and other initiatives, TTB will continue its data-driven approach to target high-frequency errors and implement solutions through guidance, online systems enhancements, and training to improve program efficiencies and maintain timely service.

### **Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

Nothing to Report.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

January 29, 2021

4040000: (b) (6)  
9200

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending January 29, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

***Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week***

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

***Section 1 – Travel and Events***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities***

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending January 29, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities**<sup>1</sup>

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (7)(E)



**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**TTB Participates in 2021 Virtual Unified Wine & Grape Symposium:** From January 26 to 29, TTB participated in the first-ever virtual Unified Wine & Grape Symposium, co-sponsored by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture and the California Association of Winegrape Growers. The symposium offered educational sessions over three days, many of

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.



Weekly Report for Week Ending January 29, 2021

which focused on challenges the industry currently faces due to wildfires, COVID-19, and changes in consumer demand. On the first day of the conference, TTB provided a regulatory update. The presentation focused on timely issues of interest to industry members, such as the now-permanent provisions of the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, TTB's response to COVID-19, and disaster relief available to industry members. TTB also hosted a booth at the symposium's virtual trade show. At the virtual booth, attendees could download helpful compliance resources, view TTB's videos on trade practices, and interact via video conferencing with TTB specialists from throughout the Bureau. TTB's participation at the symposium is an annual opportunity to engage with industry members, understand the challenges they face, and provide information to facilitate voluntary compliance.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

February 5, 2021

4040000: (b) (6)  
9200

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending February 5, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

**Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week**

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

**Section 1 – Travel and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities**

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending February 5, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities<sup>1</sup>**

(b) (7) (E)

(b) (5)

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

Weekly Report for Week Ending February 5, 2021

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**TTB Participates in Annual Cider Industry Conference:** From February 3 to 5, 2021, TTB participated in the annual CiderCon conference and trade show. The American Cider Association (ACA), which hosts CiderCon each year, held the conference virtually this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TTB has worked in partnership with the ACA on conducting industry outreach at CiderCon since 2015. This year, TTB presented four educational sessions on the following topics: TTB’s legal framework for cider; labeling of hard ciders under TTB’s jurisdiction; formulas; and records, reports, and returns. TTB staff were available throughout the conference in a virtual trade show booth where they answered attendees’ questions via video chats. TTB conducts industry outreach to enhance the Bureau’s relationships with regulated industry members, and to improve voluntary compliance.

(b) (5)

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

**Department of the Treasury**

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

February 12, 2021

4040000: (b) (6)  
9200

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending February 12, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

**Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week**

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

**Section 1 – Travel and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities**

Nothing to Report.



Weekly Report for Week Ending February 12, 2021

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities**<sup>1</sup>

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (4)

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (4)

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

Weekly Report for Week Ending February 12, 2021

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (5)

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

(b) (5), (b) (6)

(b) (5)

**TTB Participates in Meeting with Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America:** On February 11, 2021, TTB met virtually with the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America

## Weekly Report for Week Ending February 12, 2021

(WSWA) to discuss multiple topics. WSWA is a membership organization for wine and distilled spirits distributors, which advocates on federal, state, regulatory, and legal issues that impact the alcohol beverage industry and its distributors. At the meeting TTB listened to WSWA's thoughts and concerns about cocktails to-go, cannabis, and trade practices, among other topics. WSWA encouraged TTB to create guidance on the cocktails to-go issue, concerned that states may create differing guidance on the topic. WSWA asked about cannabis in alcohol beverages and in general. WSWA commended TTB for its on-demand video educational materials on trade practice regulation, which its members have found very useful. TTB had noticed the large number of views of those videos and hopes to produce more on-demand video content in the future. Meetings like this are important because they allow TTB and industry members to engage and to share information and concerns about ongoing activities in the market and developments on the horizon.

**TTB Participates in International Wine Technical Summit Initial Preparations:** On February 10, 2021, TTB participated in a call to begin preparations for the next virtual International Wine Technical Summit (IWTS), which is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 24, 2021. The Wine Institute organized the call. Participants in the call, which also included representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, will meet regularly to prepare and develop the agenda. Originally an annual technical forum between U.S. wine industry groups and TTB, the IWTS evolved into a forum for foreign and domestic government officials and industry members to discuss trade issues of a technical or scientific nature with the aim of trade facilitation. The IWTS also allows participants to share best practices, and exchange ideas and experiences, while fostering a collaborative environment in which to discuss sound science in wine regulation and enforcement. In 2020, the IWTS held its first virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and carried out sessions covering topics from the illicit trade of wine to certificates of analysis for wine. Participation at the 2020 meeting included foreign regulators and trade groups from over twenty-two foreign countries.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

November 20, 2020

4040000:  
9200

(b) (6)

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for Week Ending November 20, 2020

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

**Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week**

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

**Section 1 – Travel and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities**

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending November 20, 2020

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

**TTB Establishes the Tehachapi Mountains Viticultural Area:** On November 19, 2020, TTB published a final rule in the Federal Register establishing the approximately 58,000-acre “Tehachapi Mountains” (27 CFR 9.273) American viticultural area (AVA) in Kern County, California. The Tehachapi Mountains AVA is not located within any established AVA. TTB undertook this rulemaking in response to a petition submitted on behalf of local vineyard owners and vintners. TTB designates AVAs to allow vintners to better describe the origin of their wines and to allow consumers to better identify wines they may purchase. See Regulations.gov Docket No. TTB–2020–0006 for all documents and public comments related to this new AVA. This final rule will be effective on December 21, 2020. (View the boundaries for this AVA on TTB’s [AVA Map Explorer](#).)

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities<sup>1</sup>**

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (7)(E)

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

**Allegation of Misuse of “Bourbon Whiskey” in Australia:** The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States shared with TTB, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Commerce its letter to the Australian Minister for Home Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.



Weekly Report for Week Ending November 20, 2020

alleging misuse of the term “Bourbon Whiskey” in designating products that may not comply with U.S. laws and regulations governing the manufacture of that product. In a side letter agreement to the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Australia agreed to prohibit the sale of any product labeled as Bourbon Whiskey or Tennessee Whiskey unless it has been manufactured in the United States according to U.S. laws and regulations governing its consumption and complies with all applicable U.S. regulations for the consumption, sale, or export of Bourbon Whiskey or Tennessee Whiskey. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

### **Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**World Wine Trade Group Preparatory Meetings:** On November 12, 2020, TTB participated in an interagency meeting led by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), followed by a preparatory meeting with industry on November 13, 2020. The two conference call meetings were an opportunity to discuss the upcoming virtual meeting of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG), which is scheduled for November 18, 2020. The WWTG is a group of government and industry representatives from the wine-producing countries of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Georgia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, and Uruguay, which seek to reduce unnecessary barriers to wine trade and collaborate on a variety of international issues. During the meetings, participants discussed U.S. priorities for the WWTG meeting, including implementation of the WWTG strategic review, which TTB will lead, and current trade barriers facing industry. The WWTG will also receive a briefing from United Kingdom industry representatives regarding BREXIT and discuss efforts by the WWTG to secure observer status at Codex Alimentarius, the international food standards setting body. TTB will participate in the virtual meeting and will continue to provide USTR with technical advice on issues arising in the WWTG.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

November 27, 2020

4040000:  
9200

(b) (6)

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for Week Ending November 27, 2020

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

***Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week***

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

***Section 1 – Travel and Events***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities***

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Week Ending November 27, 2020

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities<sup>1</sup>**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**Under Review for Inter-Agency Equities**

Under review for inter-agency equities

(b) (5)

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

Weekly Report for Week Ending November 27, 2020

**World Wine Trade Group Virtual Meeting:** On November 18, 2020, TTB participated in a virtual meeting of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG). The virtual meeting was held in place of the WWTG's Annual Meeting, which had been scheduled to take place in New Zealand, as the current chair of the group. The WWTG is a group of government and industry representatives from the wine-producing countries of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Georgia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, and Uruguay, which seek to reduce unnecessary barriers to wine trade and collaborate on international issues. During the meeting, participants established leads for working groups to implement the WWTG strategic review, shared information on current trade barriers impacting industry, and agreed to undertake further work on the issue of the addition of water to wine, which has emerged as a trade concern in some export markets. United Kingdom industry representatives provided a briefing on trade and regulatory developments that are relevant to the wine industry as a result of BREXIT, and the WWTG agreed to continue its efforts to secure observer status at Codex Alimentarius, the international food standards setting body. TTB will continue to provide USTR with technical advice on issues arising in the WWTG in the lead up to the WWTG's next virtual intersessional, which is expected to take place in March 2021.

/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

Department of the Treasury

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

December 11, 2020

4040000:  
9200

(b) (6)

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Weeks Ending December 4 and 11, 2020

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

**Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week**

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

**Section 1 – Travel and Events**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities**

Nothing to Report.

Weekly Report for Weeks Ending December 4 and 11, 2020

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities**<sup>1</sup>

(b) (3) 26 USC 6103, (b) (4)

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**TTB Meets with Department of Treasury and Congressional Staff on Making the Craft Beverage Modernization Act Permanent:** On December 4, 2020, TTB participated in a conference call with Department of the Treasury, Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and Joint Committee on Taxation staff regarding the most recent draft legislative text making the provisions of the Craft Beverage Modernization Act (CBMA) permanent and seeking to transfer the authority over issuance of refunds on overpayment of tax by alcohol importers from Customs and Border Protection. Committee staff continues to

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the report may contain return information protected from disclosure by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Please safeguard accordingly.

Weekly Report for Weeks Ending December 4 and 11, 2020

revise draft legislative text and seek technical advice with the expectation of potentially attaching the CBMA to the next appropriate legislative vehicle slated for passage before the end of the calendar year.

**TTB Meets with U.S. Food and Drug Administration about the Use of Amburana Wood in Alcohol Beverage Products:** Earlier this year, as part of TTB's regular communications with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on product safety issues, the FDA brought concerns to TTB about the use of amburana wood in alcohol beverage products. The amburana tree is a type of oak that grows mostly in Brazil. In a follow-up conference call, the FDA confirmed that there are no health concerns for the use of amburana wood in the production of distilled spirits products including cachaça, a type of rum distinctive to Brazil. As a result, TTB will begin to approve distilled spirits label applications referencing amburana wood. (b) (5)

(b) (5) Consequently, for wine and malt beverage label applications that indicate the presence of amburana wood in the product, TTB will return those applications with a note that refers the applicants to the FDA.

**TTB Meets with American Distilled Spirits Alliance on Alleged Misuse of "Bourbon" Designation in Australia:** On December 9, 2020, TTB hosted a conference call to provide representatives from the American Distilled Spirits Alliance (ADSA) an opportunity to share concerns about an alleged misuse of the term "Bourbon Whiskey" on labels of products not eligible for that designation. (b) (5)

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/s/

Mary G. Ryan  
Administrator



**Administrator**

**Department of the Treasury**

**Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau**

December 18, 2020

4040000:  
9200

**(b) (6)**

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

THRU: Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy)

FROM: Acting Administrator

SUBJECT: Report for Week Ending December 18, 2020

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT**

***Section 1 – Upcoming Action Memos for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Outstanding Congressional Correspondence***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 3 – Critical Events of the Past Week***

Nothing to Report.

**BUREAU REPORT**

**Part I**

***Section 1 – Travel and Events***

Nothing to Report.

***Section 2 – Announcements, Updates, Releases, and External Activities***

Nothing to Report.



Weekly Report for Week Ending December 18, 2020

**Section 3 – Upcoming Reports, Travel, or Other Significant Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 4 – Agency Press Activity**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 5 – Grants Awarded and Regulation Announcements**

Nothing to Report.

**Part II**

**Section 1 – Bureau Activities**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 2 – News Affecting Industry**

Nothing to Report.

**Section 3 – Speaking Opportunities and Meetings**

**TTB Presents Malt Beverage Labeling Webinar to California Craft Brewers Association:**

On Tuesday, December 8, 2020, TTB presented a 60 minute webinar to approximately 50 members of the California Craft Brewers Association. The webinar covered the basics of creating a malt beverage label that meets TTB's labeling requirements and how to avoid common submission errors. TTB's participation enabled attendees to learn valuable information needed to increase voluntary compliance.

**TTB Participates in Meeting with Portugal:** On December 11, 2020, TTB participated, via video conference, in the United States – Portugal Trade and Investment Committee meeting, which was led by the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon. During the meeting, Portugal's Ministry of Agriculture raised a number of concerns on behalf of their wine exporters. Specifically, Portugal expressed concern about the presence of non-EU wines in the U.S. market that bear the term "Port," as Portugal believes that term should be reserved exclusively for their producers. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) responded that under the 2006 Agreement Between the United States and the European Community on Trade in Wine, certain uses of the term Port continue to be permitted on non-Portuguese wines. Portugal also expressed concerns about the complexity of and delays with TTB's Certificate of Label Approval (COLA) process. In response, TTB commented that its current average processing time for a COLA for wine is one day, and we noted our ongoing strategic focus on providing timely and consistent service. Portugal also raised issues related to State-level laws, which

Weekly Report for Week Ending December 18, 2020

are not within TTB's authority. TTB will continue to provide USTR with technical advice on issues raised by Portugal that are within TTB's authority.

**TTB Participates in DISCUS Export Webinar:** On December 16, 2020, TTB participated in an export webinar sponsored by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). The webinar, which attracted more than 40 distilled spirits plant proprietors, focused on information needed by these small businesses to begin exporting the distilled spirits they produce. TTB provided an overview of Federal laws, regulations, and resources related to the exportation of alcohol beverage products and answered industry members' questions. TTB's participation in such events improves communication with industry members, and promotes voluntary regulatory compliance in support of TTB's mission and the Treasury Department's goal to boost U.S. economic growth.

**TTB Participates in World Wine Trade Group Calls:** (b) (5)

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and a call with government representatives from New Zealand, the current WWTG Chair. During the latter call, the United States and New Zealand discussed potential edits to the draft statement, as well as recent correspondence from Uruguay indicating concerns with the statement, and the possibility of a future virtual meeting with other WWTG members to discuss this issue. TTB will continue to work within the interagency group to provide technical advice on issues arising in the WWTG.

/s/

Elisabeth C. Kann  
Acting Administrator