

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX AND TRADE BUREAU

Supporting Statement - Information Collection Requirement

OMB Control Number 1513-0045

TTB REC 5110/06 Distilled Spirits Plants - Excise Taxes

A. Justification

1. What are the circumstances that make this collection of information necessary and what legal or administrative requirements necessitate the collection?

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in 26 U.S.C. 5001, imposes a tax of \$13.50 a proof gallon on all distilled spirits produced in or imported into the United States. Although that tax attaches at the time the spirits are first produced, 26 U.S.C. 5006 provides that the tax will be determined at the time the spirits are withdrawn from bond and, under 26 U.S.C. 5061, will be paid by return. Excise tax records and reports prescribed by Part 19 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR Part 19) are those necessary to satisfy these requirements. Respondents are the distilled spirits plants (DSPs) qualified under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. 5171.

Additionally, 26 U.S.C. 5010 allows a credit against the distilled spirits excise tax for the portion of the alcohol content of a distilled spirits product which is derived from wine or flavors.

To administer the wine/flavor tax credit with respect to excise taxes at distilled spirits plants, we must collect such information as will enable us to verify (1) the eligibility of wines and flavors contained in a product, (2) the alcohol content of wines and flavors, (3) the exact quantity of such wines and flavors contained in a product, (4) the correct "effective tax rate" for such products after taking into consideration the credits allowed by 26 U.S.C. 5010 and (5) the application of the correct rate of tax at the time of removal.

To verify claims filed by distilled spirits plants, we must establish the rate of tax which was paid on any given product.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is this information used?

Excise tax records required by 27 CFR Part 19 are used by the DSP proprietors qualified under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. 5171 to compute tax payments, and by our specialists to verify tax determinations computations of tax returns, adequacy of bond coverage and correctness of claims. Those records, returns and claims include the following:

Record of tax determination. The records of tax determination must be made prior to the taxable removal of spirits from the DSP (§§ 19.515, 19.526) in accordance with §§ 19.761 and 19.517. Daily summaries of tax determinations (§ 19.762) and bond accounts (§ 19.516) are maintained by those DSP proprietors who defer taxes subject to a withdrawal bond.

If the record of tax determination covers products eligible for wine or flavor credit, sufficient information must appear on the record to trace the product to manufacturing records. Regulations in §§ 19.21, 19.34, 26.77 and 26.79 require DSP proprietors who use wine or flavor in the manufacture of a distilled spirits product to calculate an "effective tax rate" for each such product. The effective tax rate so computed will enable the proprietor to determine the correct tax liability when the product is removed from bond and will enable our specialists to verify the payment of the proper amount of tax.

Sections 19.35 through 19.38 allow the proprietor to use any of four alternative methods to withdraw spirits using an effective tax rate. A standard effective tax rate for a distilled spirits product may be used in the tax payment for such products in accordance with §§ 19.36 and 19.765. A proprietor may taxpay distilled spirits products by determining an average wine and flavor content in accordance with §§ 19.37 and 19.763. A proprietor may also use an inventory reserve procedure in accordance with §§ 19.38 and 19.764. The information collections required by these sections will be used by our specialists to verify that the tax determinations reflect the proper tax rate for spirits containing wine or flavor.

Taxes are paid by return on TTB F 5000.24 prior to the removal of spirits unless the proprietor has sufficient bond coverage and is authorized to defer payment. Tax deferred payments are also made on TTB F 5000.24 (§§ 19.519, 19.522, 19.523 and 19.525). TTB F 5000.24 is currently approved under OMB control number 1513-0083. Tax returns, to properly identify the taxpayer, must show the employer identification number (EIN) (§ 19.520). The EIN may be obtained by filing SF-4 (OMB control number 1545-0003) with the Internal Revenue Service (§ 19.521).

In addition to the normal tax determinations of distilled spirits, tax returns must also reflect additional taxes or duties not declared upon importation (§ 19.518), taxable samples (§ 19.703), and shortages of bottled goods (§ 19.565).

Tax returns are normally filed with remittances; however, taxpayers who paid more than \$5 million in distilled spirits taxes in the previous year must so notify the Director, National Revenue Center and pay tax by electronic fund transfer (§ 19.524).

Claims. As provided by § 19.44, claims for the abatement or refund of taxes paid must be filed on Form 5620.8. Information to be collected for the submission of these claims is prescribed by §§ 19.41 and 19.561 (for spirits lost in bond), and 19.42, and 19.564 (spirits lost after tax determination). To properly identify Puerto Rican or Virgin Island spirits, the data required by § 19.487 must be shown on the claim. Approved claims for credit are taken on the tax returns only after receipt of the approval (§§ 19.45 and 19.46).

General provisions of the format, organization, maintenance and retention of these records are provided in §§ 19.721, 19.723, 19.731 and 19.732. Such records are required to be retained for a period of three years. However, the Director, National Revenue Center, may require that such records be retained for an additional period of up to three years where such retention is deemed necessary to protect the revenue.

Without these collections of information, we would be unable to verify taxable removals, taxes due, adequacy of withdrawal bonds and the proper payment of taxes. We would be unable to properly process the payment of taxes or claims without the information required to be shown on the applicable returns or claims.

3. To what extent does this collection of information involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology? What consideration is given to use information technology to reduce burden?

We have approved, and will continue to approve on a case-by-case basis, the use of improved technology for the maintenance of required records.

4. What efforts are used to identify duplication? Why can't any similar information already available be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above?

We terminated the Federal Information Locator System (FILS) Program for agency use. However, we search an agency subject classification system to identify duplication. Similar information is not available elsewhere for this information collection requirement.

5. If this collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, what methods are used to minimize burden?

This collection of information is not susceptible to reduced requirements for small business.

6. What consequences to Federal program or policy activities and what, if any, technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden will occur if this collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently?

Tax records prescribed by 27 CFR Part 19 constitute a continuing recording of ongoing activities. Less frequent recordkeeping requirements would result in incomplete determinations of taxes owed and would severely hinder TTB in its verification of tax payments in DSP audits.

7. Are there any special circumstances associated with this information collection?

There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection.

8. What effort was made to notify the general public about this collection of information?

A 60-day Federal Register notice was published for this information collection on Thursday, June 8, 2006, 71 FR 33335. The notice solicited comments from the general public. TTB received no comments.

9. What decision was made to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than reenumeration of contractors or grantees?

No payment or gift is associated with this collection.

10. What assurance of confidentiality was provided to respondents and what was the basis for the assurance in statute, regulations, or agency policy?

These collections of information are maintained at our regional offices in secure file rooms with controlled public access. Moreover, 26 U.S.C. 6103 and 5 U.S.C. 552, protect the confidentiality of the information collected.

11. What justification is there for questions of a sensitive nature?

We ask no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. What is the estimated hour burden of this collection of information?

There is no change in burden hours from the previous submission. There are 26 responses per 133 respondents. We estimate that it takes 1 hour per response for a total burden of 3,458 hours. The recordkeeping retention period is 3 years.

13. What is the estimated total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from this collection of information?

We do not associate any new cost with this collection.

14. What is the annualized cost to the Federal Government?

There is no cost to the Federal Government associated with this information collection.

15. What is the reason for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I?

There are no program changes or adjustments associated with this collection.

16. Outline plans for tabulation and publication for collections of information whose results will be published.

The results of this collection will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection, what are the reasons that the display would be inappropriate?

Displaying the expiration date for OMB approval would be inappropriate because this is a recordkeeping collection.

18. What are the exceptions to the certification statement?

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This collection does not employ statistical methods.