

For Immediate Release Contact: Art Resnick (202)927-8062 May 2, 2006 FY-06-31

CHANGE TO VINTAGE DATE REQUIRMENTS

Washington, D.C. – The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) issued a final rule in the Federal Register adopting a proposed amendment to the regulations pertaining to wine vintage date labeling. The adopted proposal allows (1) wine labeled with an appellation of origin other than a country or viticultural area to bear a vintage date if at least 85 percent of the wine is derived from grapes harvested in the labeled calendar year and (2) retains the current requirement that at least 95 percent of the grapes in a vintage dated wine be harvested in the year shown on the label for wine with an American viticultural area (or its foreign equivalent) as an appellation of origin.

The final rule becomes effective June 1, 2006.

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