

For Immediate Release Contact: Art Resnick (202)927-8062 July 26, 2006 FY-06-38

TTB PUBLISHES TWO DOCUMENTS ON ALLERGEN LABELING

Washington, D.C. - The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) published an Interim rule and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in today's Federal Register concerning the labeling of allergens in alcohol beverages. Both documents parallel the recent amendments to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act contained in the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004. The act adopts labeling standards for major food allergens used in the production of alcohol beverages subject to the labeling requirements of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.

Under the interim regulations, producers, bottlers, and importers of wines, distilled spirits, and malt beverages may voluntarily declare the presence of milk, eggs, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, peanuts, and soybeans, as well as ingredients that contain protein derived from these foods, in their products. The interim regulations set forth rules that are mandatory for how industry members must undertake such labeling, should they choose to do so. The interim regulations also contain procedures for petitioning for an exemption from the standards imposed on those alcohol beverage producers who wish to make voluntary allergen statements on their product labels.

The notice of proposed rulemaking proposes to make major food allergen labeling mandatory for alcohol beverages. That notice solicits comments from the public, including consumers and affected industry members, on the proposed labeling requirements and the time frame for making the requirements mandatory. The proposed regulations set forth in the NPRM also provide procedures for petitioning for an exemption from allergen labeling.

Written comments on the NPRM must be received on or before September 25, 2006.

You may send comments to any of the following addresses-

• Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Attn: Notice No. 62, P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044–4412.

• 202-927-8525 (facsimile).

• <u>nprm@ttb.gov</u> (e-mail).

• <u>http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm</u>. An online comment form is posted with this notice on our Web site.

• <u>http://www.regulations.gov</u>. Federal e-rulemaking portal; follow instructions for submitting comments.

####