For Immediate Release   October 25, 2006
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TTB PROPOSES REGULATORY STANDARDS
FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN
CIGARS AND CIGARETTES

Washington, D.C. – The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking, " Tax Classification of Cigars and Cigarettes", Notice No. 65, in the Federal Register proposing changes to the regulations that govern the classification and labeling of cigars and cigarettes for Federal excise tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code. The proposed regulatory changes contained in this document address concerns that TTB has regarding the adequacy of the current regulatory standards for distinguishing between cigars and cigarettes. The clarifications contained in the notice are intended to reduce possible revenue losses through the misclassification of cigarettes as little cigars.

In conjunction with the issuance of Notice No. 65, TTB issued Notice No. 66 to describe the analytical method that it uses to determine the total reducing sugars content in the cigars and cigarettes that it analyzes. This method is referenced in our notice of proposed rulemaking entitled "Tax Classification of Cigars and Cigarettes," Notice No. 65. We are giving notice of this method so that interested members of the public may use the same method to evaluate the total reducing sugars of tobacco products for the purpose of commenting on the proposed rule (Notice No. 65).

Written comments on Notice No. 65 must be received on or before December 26, 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. 65), P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044–4412.
- 202-927-8525 (facsimile).
- nprm@ttb.gov (e-mail).
- http://www.ttb.gov/tobacco/tobacco_rulemaking.shtml (An online comment form is posted with this notice on our Web site).
- http://www.regulations.gov (Federal e-rulemaking portal; follow instructions for submitting comments).

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