

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Justice**

**§ 646.155**

paragraphs (a)(2) (i) through (viii) of this section for each disposition of more than 60,000 cigarettes.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1512-0391)

[45 FR 48612, July 21, 1980, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14943, Apr. 16, 1984]

**§ 646.150 Retention of records.**

(a) *General.* Each distributor of cigarettes shall retain the records required by §§ 646.146 and 646.147 for three years following the close of the year in which the records are made. The distributor shall keep the required records on his business premises.

(b) *Shorter retention periods.* The appropriate ATF officer may, pursuant to an application submitted by a distributor, approve a shorter retention period where—

(1) The distributor requesting the shorter retention period is an agent of a tobacco products manufacturer;

(2) The tobacco products manufacturer will keep the required record for each disposition of more than 60,000 cigarettes from the agent's premises for the full retention period specified in paragraph (a) of this section; and

(3) The approval of a shorter retention period will not unduly hinder the administration of enforcement of this subpart.

(c) *Application requirements.* Each distributor proposing to employ a shorter retention period shall submit a written application, in duplicate, to the appropriate ATF officer. A distributor may not employ a shorter retention period until approval is received from the appropriate ATF officer. Each application should indicate the duration of the proposed retention period and should include the information required by paragraph (b) of this section.

[45 FR 48612, July 21, 1980, as amended by T.D. ATF-472, 67 FR 8880, 8881, Feb. 27, 2002]

**OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES**

**§ 646.153 Authority of appropriate ATF officers to enter business premises.**

Any appropriate ATF officer may enter the business premises of any distributor of cigarettes to inspect the records required by §§ 646.146 through

646.147 or to inspect any cigarettes stored on the premises—

(a) Pursuant to duly issued search warrant or an administrative inspection warrant; or

(b) Upon the consent of the distributor to enter his premises.

[45 FR 48612, July 21, 1980, as amended by T.D. ATF-472, 67 FR 8881, Feb. 27, 2002]

**PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES**

**§ 646.154 Penalties.**

(a) Any person who knowingly ships, transports, receives, possesses, sells, distributes, or purchases contraband cigarettes shall be fined not more than \$100,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) Any person who knowingly violates any regulation contained in this part or makes any false statement or misrepresentation with respect to the information required to be recorded by this part shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

**§ 646.155 Forfeitures.**

(a) Any contraband cigarettes involved in any violation of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114 shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture. All provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (title 26 U.S.C.) relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, as defined in section 5845(a) of that Code, shall, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures of contraband cigarettes under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114.

(b) Any vessel, vehicle or aircraft used to transport, carry, convey, or conceal or possess any contraband cigarettes with respect to which there has been committed any violation of any provision of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114 or the regulations in this subpart shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture under the Customs laws, as provided by the Act of August 9, 1939 (49 U.S.C. 781-788).

(18 U.S.C. 2344; 53 Stat. 1291 (49 U.S.C. 782))