



## Recognition of Andong Soju and Gyeongju Beopju as Geographical Designations for Distilled Spirits

### 27 CFR 5.22(k)(3): Class 11; geographical designations

*TTB confirms that “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” are geographical designations under 27 CFR 5.22(k)(3) and will not be applied to distilled spirits products other than those produced in the particular place or region indicated by such name, and that “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” must be manufactured in the Republic of Korea in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea governing the manufacture of those products.*

### TTB RULING 2012-1

#### Background

The requirements in 27 CFR 5.22(k)(3) establish a standard of identity for products having geographical designations. Under this section, geographical names that are not distinctive types of distilled spirits, and that have not become generic, will not be applied to distilled spirits produced in any other place than the particular place or region indicated in the name.

The names “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” are geographical names under § 5.22(k)(3) and will not apply to distilled spirits products other than those produced in the particular place or region indicated by such names. Further, such “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” must be produced in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea.

Pursuant to Article 2.13.2 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement, the United States agreed to recognize “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” as distinctive products of the Republic of Korea. Accordingly, the United States agreed not to permit the sale of any product as “Andong Soju” or “Gyeongju Beopju” if the product has not been manufactured in the Republic of Korea in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea governing the manufacture of Andong Soju and Gyeongju Beopju.

In like manner, pursuant to Article 2.13.1 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement, the Republic of Korea agreed to recognize “Tennessee Whiskey,” which, for the purposes of this free trade agreement, is a straight Bourbon Whiskey authorized to be produced only in the State of Tennessee, and “Bourbon Whiskey” as distinctive products of the United States. Accordingly, the Republic of Korea agreed not to permit

the sale of any product as Bourbon Whiskey or Tennessee Whiskey, if it has not been manufactured in the United States in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States governing the manufacture of Bourbon Whiskey and Tennessee Whiskey.

**TTB Determination Regarding Andong Soju and Gyeongju Beopju as Geographical Designations**

*Held:* TTB determines that the names “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” are geographical designations under 27 CFR 5.22(k)(3) and will not apply to distilled spirits products other than those produced in the particular place or region indicated by such name. Further, “Andong Soju” and “Gyeongju Beopju” must be manufactured in the Republic of Korea in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea governing the manufacture of Andong Soju and Gyeongju Beopju.

Date signed:

John J. Manfreda  
Administrator  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau