

Things to Know When Filing an Alcohol or Tobacco Application with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

We have found the following items are frequently overlooked and are reasons for delay in acting on these applications:

What is your Business Name?

If your business is a:	Your business name is:
Sole Owner	Your (the owner's) full name
Partnership	The name of each partner and the name of the partnership as filed with the state or local government
Limited Partnership (LP)	The name of the LP and the name of the general partner(s)
Corporation or Limited Liability Company (LLC)	The corporate or LLC name as stated on your documents filed with the state or local government

How do I file?

You must file the application and supporting documents in duplicate with an original signature. The signature of the person filing the application should be legible and signed in blue ink. A photocopy is sufficient as long as the original signature in blue ink appears on all forms where required.

Where is it mailed?

Mail the application/notice and supporting documents to the following address. We recommend that you keep a copy of what you send.

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
National Revenue Center
8002 Federal Office Building
550 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-5215

Can I go ahead and file the paperwork although I'm not quite ready to open for business?

You may file your application within 60 days of your opening for business. You should have all construction complete and all necessary equipment to manufacture alcohol or tobacco products in place.

How long before I can start business?

Once we have received a perfected application and supporting documents our goal is to issue your federal permit(s) within 65 days of receipt of the perfected documents.

If you apply with us to become a distillery, winery, brewery or manufacturer of tobacco products, our goal is to issue your federal permit(s) or brewer's notice within 95 days of receipt of the perfected documents.

What is a "Perfected Application"?

We consider to be in receipt of a "perfected application" when all of the required forms and supporting documents have been submitted without any errors. You will be contacted by a NRC Specialist for an application interview. A phone number where you can be reached during the day **must** be included on the application.

If I will be doing business under another name (a trade name), what do I need to file?

If your local or state authority requires registration of the trade name, you must submit proof of registration. If it is not required, then you must give a statement to that effect.

Do I pay any taxes?

Regarding Special Occupational Tax (SOT): On October 22, 2004, H.W., 4520, the American Job Creations Act of 2004, was signed into law. As part of this act, the payment of Special Occupational Tax (SOT) was suspended for certain businesses, for a 3-year period from July 1, 2005 until June 20, 2008. Importers and wholesalers of alcohol beverages must file, but not pay SOT during this period. See information at http://www.ttb.gov/forms/5000_2.shtml.

Regarding Excise Tax: If you are a manufacturer of tobacco products, bonded winery, beverage distilled spirits plant, or brewery, an investigator will review with you the instructions for paying excise taxes or instructions will be included with your issued permit or approved brewer's notice.

Do I need an Employer Identification Number (EIN)?

Yes. If you do not have an EIN, you must obtain one from the IRS. You can complete Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, and send it to the proper IRS address, or file electronically at www.irs.gov.

Do I need any other permits or licenses besides the Federal permit?

You may also need to contact the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 requires that anyone who manufactures, processes, packs, or holds food (including alcohol beverages) for consumption in the United States to register with the FDA. You are also required to provide prior notice of food (including alcohol beverages) to be imported or offered for import to the U.S. For additional information, you may contact the FDA by calling toll free at 1-800-216-7331 (or 1-301-575-0156 for overseas callers), or visit their website at www.access.fda.gov.

If I want to import alcohol from a foreign country, does TTB need any other information?

Yes. You must attach to the application a contract, or a letter of intent, with a foreign supplier in order for your application to be processed. It is required that the letter of intent be on the foreign supplier's letterhead, signed by the supplier, and state that they intend to supply you with their alcohol products in the U.S. pending all approvals.

If I need to get labels approved, what should I do?

You can file for label approval after you have been issued a permit by TTB. Upon issuance of your permit, you can file electronically by accessing the TTB website at www.colasonline.gov/colasonline or call the Alcohol, Labeling, and Formulation Division office at 1-866-927-2533.

Does TTB have right of entry to my premises?

Yes. Any TTB officer may enter your premises (including your storage area) during business hours to examine records or other documents, including inventory, which are required to be kept or stored on the premises.

If I want to wholesale an alcohol product other than what I produce, does TTB need any other information?

Yes. You must also apply for a wholesaler's basic permit by filing TTB F 5100.24 and attach to the application a contract or letter of intent with domestic suppliers for these other products.

If I want to import an alcohol product from a foreign country other than what I produce, does TTB need any other information?

Yes. You must also apply for an importer's basic permit by filing TTB F 5100.24 and attach to the application a contract or letter of intent with foreign suppliers for these other products.

What if I am going to alternate premises with an existing manufacturer?

You should send a signed copy of your alternating agreement with all parties concerned along with your application package.