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U r a e C s
New England Convenience Store

A . s s o c i a t i a r i

October 6, 2003

William H. Foster, Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

RE: TTB Notice No. 4
Dear Chief Foster:

On behalf of the New England Convenience Store Association (NECSA),
I am writing to express our support for the proposed rule issued by the
Tax and Trade Bureau in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003.

The proposed rule retains the historical Federal interpretation of what
constitutes a beer or other malt beverage. It requires that no more
than 0.5% of the alcohol content of flavored malt beverages be
derived from distilled alcohol in order to be classified as beer.

By clarifying that any product sold and marketed as a malt beverage
must be made by traditional brewing processes, the proposed standard
provides states and the marketplace with guidance on how to classify
products. This standard will ensure that an alcohol product will not be
sold as a beer in one state and a distilled spirit in another.

For these reason, we urge the final adoption of the "0.5%" standard in
the near future.

Sincerely,

Catherine Flaherty, CAE
Executive Director

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