

0049012

From: Michelle Fank [abdi@abdi.org]

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2003 10:49 AM

To: nprm@ttb.gov

Subject: FW: TTB Proposed Rule on Alcohol Content in Beer

Dear TTB:

Beer has been regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages throughout our nation's history. Beer should be defined to recognize that its alcohol content is created by fermentation.

I support the proposed rule that requires beer to contain no more than 0.5% of its alcohol content from distilled alcohol. Products that contain more than 0.5% of its alcohol content from distillation are attempting to obtain a more favorable tax rate than they would have if they were classified as a spirit product. This is clearly an attempt to circumvent the traditional definitions of beer and spirits.

The proposed rule will assure that the historical definition of what constitutes beer and would maintain the integrity of beer and the brewing process. Beer is not a product that has been made using distilled alcohol. Beer is not a distilled spirit product.

Any blurring of the difference of beer and spirits would affect the regulation and taxation of beer and sprits at both the state and federal levels. The proposed rule would avoid confusion in state licensing, regulation, sales and distribution policies.

I urge the adoption of the 0.5% standard to ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

Bill Olson
100 W. Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62704