

**§ 24.271 Payment of tax by check, cash, or money order.**

(a) *General.* Unless prepaid or no tax is due, the tax on wine is paid by a semi-monthly or annual Excise Tax Return, ATF F 5000.24, which is filed with remittance (check or money order) for the full amount of tax due. Prepayments of tax on wine during the period covered by the return are shown separately on the Excise Tax Return form.

(b) *Return periods.* Except as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section and § 24.273, or where there is no tax due, return periods are from the 1st day of each month through the 15th day of that month and from the 16th day of each month through the last day of that month. The proprietor shall file returns with remittances, for each return period not later than the 14th day after the last day of the return period. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the return and remittance shall be due on the immediately preceding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, except as provided by § 24.271(c)(3).

(c) *Special rule for taxes due for the month of September (effective after December 31, 1994).* (i)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, the second semimonthly period for the month of September shall be divided into two payment periods, from the 16th day through the 26th day, and from the 27th day through the 30th day. The proprietor shall file a return on Form 5000.24, and make remittance, for the period September 16-26, no later than September 29. The proprietor shall file a return on Form 5000.24, and make remittance, for the period September 27-30, no later than October 14.

(ii) *Taxpayment not by electronic fund transfer.* In the case of taxes not required to be remitted by electronic fund transfer as prescribed by § 24.272, the second semimonthly period of September shall be divided into two payment periods, from the 16th day through the 25th day, and the 26th day through the 30th day. The proprietor shall file a return on Form 5000.24, and make remittance, for the period September 16-25, no later than September 28. The proprietor shall file a return on Form 5000.24, and make remittance, for

the period September 26-30, no later than October 14.

(2) *Amount of payment: Safe harbor rule.* (i) Taxpayers are considered to have met the requirements of paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, if the amount paid no later than September 29 is not less than 11/15 (73.3 percent) of the tax liability incurred for the semi-monthly period beginning on September 1 and ending on September 15, and if any underpayment of tax is paid by October 14.

(ii) Taxpayers are considered to have met the requirements of paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, if the amount paid no later than September 28 is not less than 2/3rds (66.7 percent) of the tax liability incurred for the semimonthly period beginning on September 1 and ending on September 15, and if any underpayment of tax is paid by October 14.

(3) *Last day for payment.* If the required due date for taxpayment for the periods September 16-25 or September 16-26 as applicable, falls on a Saturday or legal holiday, the return and remittance shall be due on the immediately preceding day. If the required due date falls on a Sunday, the return and remittance shall be due on the immediately following day.

(4) *Example. Payment of tax for the month of September.* (i) *Facts.* X, a proprietor required to pay taxes by electronic fund transfer, incurred tax liability in the amount of \$30,000 for the first semimonthly period of September. For the period September 16-26, X incurred tax liability in the amount of \$45,000, and for the period September 27-30, X incurred tax liability in the amount of \$2,000.

(ii) *Payment requirement.* X's payment of tax in the amount of \$30,000 for the first semimonthly period of September is due no later than September 29 (§ 24.271(b)). X's payment of tax for the period September 16-26 is also due no later than September 29 (§ 24.271(c)(1)(i)). X may use the safe harbor rule to determine the amount of payment due for the period of September 16-26 (§ 24.271(c)(2)). Under the safe harbor rule, X's payment of tax must equal \$21,990.00, 11/15ths of the tax

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liability incurred during the first semi-monthly period of September. Additionally, X's payment of tax in the amount of \$2,000 for the period September 27-30 must be paid no later than October 14 (§ 24.271(c)(1)(i)). X must also pay the underpayment of tax, \$23,010.00, for the period September 16-26, no later than October 14 (§ 24.271(c)(2)).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control numbers 1512-0467 and 1512-0492)

[T.D. ATF-299, 55 FR 24989, June 19, 1990, as amended by T.D. ATF-365, 60 FR 33668, June 28, 1995]

### § 24.272 Payment of tax by electronic fund transfer.

(a) *General.* (1) During a calendar year any proprietor who is liable for a gross amount of wine excise tax equal to or exceeding \$5 million combining tax liabilities incurred under this part and parts 26 and 27 of this chapter, shall during the succeeding calendar year use a financial institution in making payment by electronic fund transfer (EFT) of wine taxes for that year. A proprietor who is required by this section to make remittance by EFT may not effect payment of wine taxes by cash, check, or money order as described in § 24.271.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the dollar amount of tax liability is defined as the gross tax liability on all taxable withdrawals and importations (including wines brought into the United States from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands) during the calendar year, without regard to any drawback, credit, or refund, for all premises from which the activities are conducted by the proprietor.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a proprietor includes a controlled group of corporations, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 5061 (e)(3). Also, the rules for a "controlled group of corporations" apply in a similar fashion to groups which include partnerships and/or sole proprietorships. If one entity maintains more than 50 percent control over a group consisting of corporations and one, or more, partnerships and/or sole proprietorships, all of the members of the controlled group are one taxpayer for the purpose of determining who is required to make remittances by EFT.

(4) A proprietor who is required by this section to make remittances by EFT shall, for each bonded wine premises from which wine is withdrawn upon determination of tax, make a separate EFT remittance and file a separate tax return.

(b) *Requirements.* (1) On or before January 10 of each calendar year, except for a proprietor already remitting the tax by EFT, each proprietor who was liable during the previous calendar year for a gross amount of wine excise tax equal to or exceeding \$5 million, combining tax liabilities incurred under this part and parts 26 and 27 of this chapter, shall give written notice to the appropriate ATF officer agreeing to make remittances by EFT.

(2) For each return filed in accordance with this subpart, the proprietor shall direct the proprietor's financial institution to make an electronic fund transfer in the amount of the taxpayment to the Treasury Account as provided in paragraph (e) of this section. The request will be made to the financial institution early enough for the transfer of funds to be made to the Treasury Account by no later than the close of business on the last day for filing the return as prescribed in § 24.271. The request will take into account any time limit established by the financial institution.

(3) If the proprietor was liable during the preceding calendar year for less than \$5 million in wine excise taxes, combining tax liabilities incurred under this part and parts 26 and 27 of this chapter, the proprietor may choose either to continue remitting the tax as provided in this section or to remit the tax with return as prescribed by § 24.271. Upon filing the first return on which the proprietor chooses to discontinue remittance of the tax by EFT and to begin remittance of the tax with the tax return, the proprietor shall notify the appropriate ATF officer by attaching a written notification to the tax form stating that no wine excise tax is due by EFT because the tax liability during the preceding calendar year was less than \$5 million, and that the remittance will be filed with the tax return.