

§ 53.20

Vendor. Includes a lessor where the lessor is also the manufacturer of the article.

[T.D. ATF-308, 56 FR 303, Jan. 3, 1991, as amended by T.D. ATF-312, 56 FR 31083, July 9, 1991; T.D. ATF-330, 57 FR 40325, Sept. 3, 1992; T.D. ATF-365, 60 FR 33670, June 28, 1995; T.D. ATF-404, 63 FR 52603, Oct. 1, 1998; T.D. ATF-447, 66 FR 19088, Apr. 13, 2001]

Subpart C—Administrative and Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 53.20 Delegations of the Director.

All of the regulatory authorities of the Director contained in part 53 of the regulations are delegated to appropriate ATF officers. These ATF officers are specified in ATF Order 1130.18, Delegation Order—Delegation of the Director's Authorities in 27 CFR part 53—Manufacturers Excise Taxes—Firearms and Ammunition. ATF delegation orders, such as ATF Order 1130.18, are available to any interested person by mailing a request to the ATF Distribution Center, P.O. Box 5950, Springfield, Virginia 22150-5950, or by accessing the ATF web site (<http://www.atf.treas.gov/>).

[T.D. ATF-447, 66 FR 19088, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 53.21 Forms prescribed.

(a) The appropriate ATF officer is authorized to prescribe all forms required by this part. All of the information called for in each form shall be furnished as indicated by the headings on the form and the instructions on or pertaining to the form. In addition, information called for in each form shall be furnished as required by this part. The form will be filed in accordance with the instructions on the form.

(b) Forms may be requested from the ATF Distribution Center, P.O. Box 5950, Springfield, Virginia 22150-5950, or by accessing the ATF web site (<http://www.atf.treas.gov/>).

(c) *Signature authorization.* An individual's signature on a return, statement, or other document made by or for a corporation or a partnership shall be prima facie evidence that the indi-

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vidual is authorized to sign the return, statement, or other document.

[T.D. ATF-308, 56 FR 303, Jan. 3, 1991. Redesignated in part by T.D. ATF-365, 60 FR 33670, June 28, 1995, as amended by T.D. 372, 61 FR 20724, May 8, 1996; T.D. ATF-447, 66 FR 19088, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 53.22 Employer identification number.

(a) *Requirement of application.* (1) Except for one-time or occasional filers, every person who makes a sale or use of an article with respect to which a tax is imposed by section 4181 of the Code, and who has not earlier been assigned an employer identification number or has not applied for one, shall make an application on Form SS-4 for an employer identification number. The application and any supplementary statement accompanying it shall be prepared in accordance with the applicable form, instructions, and regulations and shall set forth fully and clearly the data therein called for. Form SS-4 may be obtained from any internal revenue district office or internal revenue service center. The application shall be filed with the internal revenue officer designated in the instructions applicable to Form SS-4. The application shall be signed by:

(i) The individual if the person is an individual;

(ii) The president, vice-president, or other principal officer, if the person is a corporation;

(iii) A responsible and duly authorized member or officer having knowledge of its affairs, if the person is a partnership or other unincorporated organization; or

(iv) The fiduciary, if the person is a trust or estate.

An employer identification number will be assigned to the person in due course upon the basis of information reported on the application required under this section.

(2) *Time for filing Form SS-4.* The application for an employer identification number shall be filed no later than the seventh day after the date of the first sale or use of an article with respect to which a tax is imposed by chapter 32 of the Code. However, the application should be filed far enough

in advance of the first required use of such number to permit issuance of the number in time for compliance with such requirement.

(3) *One-time or occasional filers.* A person who files a return under the provisions of section 53.151(a)(5) is not required to make application for an employer identification number. Such persons may use their social security number on any return, statement or other document submitted to ATF by that person in lieu of an employer identification number.

(b) *Use of employer identification number.* The employer identification number assigned to a person liable for a tax imposed by chapter 32 of the Code shall be shown on any return, statement, or other document submitted to ATF by the person.

[T.D. ATF-308, 56 FR 303, Jan. 3, 1991, as amended by T.D. ATF-365, 60 FR 33670, June 28, 1995; T.D. ATF-447, 66 FR 19088, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 53.23 Alternate methods or procedures.

(a) A taxpayer, on specific approval by the appropriate ATF officer as provided in this section, may use an alternate method or procedure in lieu of a method or procedure specifically prescribed in this part. The Director may approve an alternate method or procedure, subject to stated conditions, when—

(1) Good cause has been shown for the use of the alternate method or procedure;

(2) The alternate method or procedure is within the purpose of, and consistent with the effect intended by, the specifically prescribed method or procedure, and affords equivalent security to the revenue; and

(3) The alternate method or procedure will not be contrary to any provision of law and will not result in an increase in cost to the Government or hinder the effective administration of this part. No alternate method or procedure relating to the assessment, payment, or collection of tax shall be authorized under this paragraph.

(b) Where the taxpayer desires to employ an alternate method or procedure, a written application to do so must be submitted. The application must spe-

cifically describe the proposed alternate method or procedure and must set forth the reasons therefor. Alternate methods or procedures must not be employed until the appropriate ATF officer has approved the application. The taxpayer must, during the period of authorization of an alternate method or procedure, comply with the terms of the approved application. Authorization for any alternate method or procedure may be withdrawn whenever, in the judgment of the appropriate ATF officer, the revenue is jeopardized or the effective administration of this part is hindered by the continuation of such authorization.

[T.D. ATF-365, 60 FR 33670, June 28, 1995, as amended by T.D. ATF-447, 66 FR 19088, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 53.24 Records.

(a) *In general—(1) Form of records.* The records required by the regulations in this part shall be kept accurately, but no particular form is required for keeping the records. Such forms and systems of accounting shall be used as will enable appropriate ATF officers to ascertain whether liability for tax is incurred and, if so, the amount thereof.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) *Copies of returns, schedules, and statements.* Every person who is required, by the regulations in this part or by instructions applicable to any form prescribed thereunder, to keep any copy of any return, schedule, statement, or other document, shall keep such copy as a part of the records.

(c) *Records of claimants.* Any person who, pursuant to the regulations in this part, claims a refund, credit, or abatement, shall keep a complete and detailed record with respect to the tax, interest, addition to the tax, additional amount, or assessable penalty to which the claim relates. Such record shall include any records required of the claimant by paragraph (b) of this section and subpart L of this part.

(d) *Place and period for keeping records.* (1) All records required by this part shall be prepared and kept by the person required to keep them, at one or more convenient and safe locations accessible to appropriate ATF officers, and shall at all times be immediately