

(3) Not to exceed 0.15 percent alcohol by volume for all other spirits.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 1512-0482)

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1394, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5301(a)); 49 Stat. 917, as amended (27 U.S.C. 205(e))

[T.D. ATF-237, 51 FR 36394, Oct. 10, 1986, as amended by T.D. ATF-288, 54 FR 47769, Nov. 17, 1989]

#### § 5.38 Net contents.

(a) *Bottles conforming to metric standards of fill.* The net contents of distilled spirits shall be stated in the same manner and form as set forth in the standards of fill in § 5.47a.

(b) *Bottles not conforming to the metric standards of fill.* The net contents for distilled spirits bottled before January 1, 1980, in bottles not conforming to the metric standards of fill, shall be stated in the same manner and form as set forth in § 5.47(a), except for cordials and liqueurs, cocktails, highballs, bitters and specialties, as specified by the Director. The net contents for these specialty products shall be stated in U.S. measure (i.e., gallons, quarts, pints, fluid ounces).

(c) *Net contents marked in bottles.* The net contents need not be marked on any label if they are legibly blown, etched, sandblasted, marked by underglaze coloring, or otherwise permanently marked by any method approved by the appropriate ATF officer on the side, front, or back of the container in an unobscured location. Containers of 200 ml or greater capacity shall bear letters and figures of not less than one-quarter inch height.

(d) *Qualifying statements.* Words or phrases qualifying statements of net contents are prohibited.

(Sec. 5, 49 Stat. 981, as amended (27 U.S.C. 205); 26 U.S.C. 5301)

[T.D. ATF-146, 48 FR 43321, Sept. 23, 1983, as amended by T.D. ATF-249, 52 FR 5956, Feb. 27, 1987]

#### § 5.39 Presence of neutral spirits and coloring, flavoring, and blending materials.

(a) *Neutral spirits and name of commodity.* (1) In the case of distilled spirits (other than cordials, liqueurs, and specialties) produced by blending or

rectification, if neutral spirits have been used in the production thereof, there shall be stated the percentage of neutral spirits so used and the name of the commodity from which such neutral spirits have been distilled. The statement of percentage and the name of the commodity shall be made in substantially the following form: “\_\_\_\_\_ % neutral spirits distilled from \_\_\_\_\_ (insert grain, cane products, or fruit as appropriate)”; or “\_\_\_\_\_ % neutral spirits (vodka) distilled from \_\_\_\_\_ (insert grain, cane products, or fruit, as appropriate)”; or “\_\_\_\_\_ % grain (cane products), (fruit) neutral spirits”, or “\_\_\_\_\_ % grain spirits.”

(2) In the case of neutral spirits or of gin produced by a process of continuous distillation, there shall be stated the name of the commodity from which such neutral spirits or gin have been distilled. The statement of the name of the commodity shall be made in substantially the following form: “Distilled from grain”, or “Distilled from cane products”, or “Distilled from fruit”.

(b) *Coloring materials.* The words “artificially colored” shall be stated on the label of any distilled spirits containing synthetic or natural materials which primarily contribute color, or when the label conveys the impression that the color is derived from a source other than the actual source, except that:

(1) If no coloring material other than natural flavoring material has been added, there may be stated in lieu of the words “artificially colored” a truthful and adequate statement of the source of the color;

(2) If no coloring material other than those certified as suitable for use in foods by the Food and Drug Administration has been added, there may be stated in lieu of the words “artificially colored,” the words “certified color added”; and

(3) If no coloring material other than caramel has been added, there may be stated in lieu of the words “artificially colored,” the words “colored with caramel,” or a substantially similar statement, but no such statement is required for the use of caramel in brandy,

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rum, or tequila, or in any type of whisky other than straight whisky.

(c) *Treatment with wood.* The words “colored and flavored with wood \_\_\_\_\_ (insert chips, slabs, etc., as appropriate)” shall be stated as a part of the class and type designation for whisky and brandy treated, in whole or in part, with wood through percolation, or otherwise, during distillation or storage, other than through contact with the oak container. *Provided*, that the above statement shall not apply to brandy treated with an infusion of oak chip in accordance with § 5.23(a).

[T.D. 720, 34 FR 20637, Dec. 30, 1969, as amended by T.D. ATF-94, 46 FR 55097, Nov. 6, 1981; T.D. ATF-292, 55 FR 1065, Jan. 11, 1990]

### § 5.40 Statements of age and percentage.

(a) *Statements of age and percentage for whisky.* In the case of straight whisky bottled in conformity with the bottled in bond labeling requirements and of domestic or foreign whisky, whether or not mixed or blended, all of which is 4 years old or more, statements of age and percentage are optional. As to all other whiskies there shall be stated the following:

(1) In the case of whisky, whether or not mixed or blended but containing no neutral spirits, the age of the youngest whisky. The age statement shall read substantially as follows: “\_\_\_\_\_ years old.”

(2) In the case of whisky, containing neutral spirits, if any of the straight whisky and/or other whisky is less than 4 years old, the percentage by volume of straight whisky and/or other whisky, and the age of the straight whisky (the youngest if two or more) and the age of such other whisky (the youngest if two or more). If all the straight whisky and/or other whisky is 4 years or more old, the age and percentage statement for such whiskies is optional. The age and percentage statement for straight whiskies and/or other whisky, whether required or optional, shall be stated in immediate conjunction with the neutral spirits statement required by § 5.39, and shall read substantially as follows:

(i) If only one straight whisky and no other whisky is contained in the blend:

“\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old.”

(ii) If more than one straight whisky and no other whisky is contained in the blend: “\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whiskies \_\_\_\_\_ years or more old.” The age blank shall be filled in with the age of the youngest straight whisky. In lieu of the foregoing, a statement may be made of the ages and percentages of each of the straight whiskies contained in the blend: “\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, \_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and \_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old.”

(iii) If only one straight whisky and one other whisky is contained in the blend: “\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, \_\_\_\_\_ percent whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old.”

(iv) If more than one straight whisky and more than one other whisky is contained in the blend: “\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whiskies \_\_\_\_\_ years or more old, \_\_\_\_\_ percent whiskies \_\_\_\_\_ years or more old.” The age blanks shall be filled in with the ages of the youngest straight whisky and the youngest other whisky. In lieu of the foregoing, a statement may be made of the ages and percentages of each of the straight whiskies and other whiskies contained in the blend: “\_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, \_\_\_\_\_ percent straight whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, \_\_\_\_\_ percent whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and \_\_\_\_\_ percent whisky \_\_\_\_\_ years old.”

(3) In the case of imported whiskies described in § 5.22(1), Class 12, the labels shall state the ages and percentages in the same manner and form as is required for the same type of whisky produced in the United States.

(4) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, in the case of whisky produced in the United States and stored in reused oak containers, except for corn whisky, and for light whisky produced on or after January 26, 1968, there shall be stated in lieu of the words “\_\_\_\_\_ years old” the period of storage in reused oak containers as follows: “\_\_\_\_\_ stored \_\_\_\_\_ years in reused cooperage.”

(5) Optional age statements shall appear in the same form as required age statements.