

**§ 7.27 Net contents.**

(a) Net contents shall be stated as follows:

(1) If less than 1 pint, in fluid ounces, or fractions of a pint.

(2) If 1 pint, 1 quart, or 1 gallon, the net contents shall be so stated.

(3) If more than 1 pint, but less than 1 quart, the net contents shall be stated in fractions of a quart, or in pints and fluid ounces.

(4) If more than 1 quart, but less than 1 gallon, the net contents shall be stated in fractions of a gallon, or in quarts, pints, and fluid ounces.

(5) If more than 1 gallon, the net contents shall be stated in gallons and fractions thereof.

(b) All fractions shall be expressed in their lowest denominations.

(c) The net contents need not be stated on any label if the net contents are displayed by having the same blown, branded, or burned in the container in letters or figures in such manner as to be plainly legible under ordinary circumstances and such statement is not obscured in any manner in whole or in part.

**§ 7.28 General requirements.**

(a) *Contrasting background.* All labels shall be so designed that all statements required by this subpart are readily legible under ordinary conditions, and all the statements are on a contrasting background.

(b) *Size of type—*(1) *Containers of more than one-half pint.* Except for statements of alcoholic content, all mandatory information required on labels by this part shall be in script, type, or printing not smaller than 2 millimeters. If contained among other descriptive or explanatory information, the script, type, or printing of all mandatory information shall be of a size substantially more conspicuous than that of the descriptive or explanatory information.

(2) *Containers of one-half pint or less.* Except for statements of alcoholic content, all mandatory information required on labels by this part shall be in script, type, or printing not smaller than 1 millimeter. If contained among other descriptive or explanatory information, the script, type, or printing of all mandatory information shall be of a

size substantially more conspicuous than that of the descriptive or explanatory information.

(3) *Alcoholic content statement.* All portions of the alcoholic content statement shall be of the same size and kind of lettering and of equally conspicuous color. Unless otherwise required by State law, the statement of alcoholic content shall be in script, type, or printing:

(i) Not smaller than 1 millimeter for containers of one-half pint or less, or smaller than 2 millimeters for containers larger than one-half pint; or

(ii) Not larger than 3 millimeters for containers of 40 fl. oz. or less, or larger than 4 millimeters for containers larger than 40 fl. oz.

(c) *English language.* All information, other than the brand name, required by this subpart to be stated on labels shall be in the English language. Additional statements in foreign languages may be made, if the statements do not conflict with, or are contradictory to, the requirements of this subpart. Labels on containers of malt beverages bottled or packed for consumption within Puerto Rico may, if desired, state the information required by this subpart solely in the Spanish language, in lieu of the English language, except that the net contents shall also be stated in the English language.

(d) *Labels firmly affixed.* All labels shall be affixed to containers of malt beverages in such manner that they cannot be removed without thorough application of water or other solvents.

(e) *Additional information.* Labels may contain information other than the mandatory label information required by this subpart if the information complies with the requirements of this subpart and does not conflict with, or in any manner qualify, statements required by this part.

[T.D. ATF-66, 45 FR 40552, June 13, 1980, as amended by T.D. ATF-94, 46 FR 55097, Nov. 6, 1981; T.D. ATF-339, 58 FR 21231, Apr. 19, 1993]

**§ 7.29 Prohibited practices.**

(a) *Statements on labels.* Containers of malt beverages, or any labels on such containers, or any carton, case, or individual covering of such containers, used for sale at retail or any written,

printed, graphic, or other matter accompanying such containers to the consumer shall not contain:

(1) Any statement that is false or untrue in any particular, or that, irrespective of falsity, directly, or by ambiguity, omission, or inference, or by the addition of irrelevant, scientific or technical matter, tends to create a misleading impression.

(2) Any statement that is disparaging of a competitor's products.

(3) Any statement, design, device, or representation which is obscene or indecent.

(4) Any statement, design, device, or representation of or relating to analyses, standards, or tests, irrespective of falsity, which the appropriate ATF officer finds to be likely to mislead the consumer.

(5) Any statement, design, device, or representation of or relating to any guarantee, irrespective of falsity, which the appropriate ATF officer finds to be likely to mislead the consumer. Money-back guarantees are not prohibited.

(6) A trade or brand name that is the name of any living individual of public prominence, or existing private or public organization, or is a name that is in simulation or is an abbreviation thereof, or any graphic, pictorial, or emblematic representation of any such individual or organization, if the use of such name or representation is likely falsely to lead the consumer to believe that the product has been endorsed, made, or used by, or produced for, or under the supervision of, or in accordance with the specifications of, such individual or organization: *Provided*, That this paragraph shall not apply to the use of the name of any person engaged in business as a producer, importer, bottler, packer, wholesaler, retailer, or warehouseman, of malt beverages, nor to the use by any person of a trade or brand name that is the name of any living individual of public prominence, or existing private or public organization, provided such trade or brand name was used by him or his predecessors in interest prior to August 29, 1935.

(b) *Simulation of Government stamps.* No label shall be of such design as to resemble or simulate a stamp of the

United States Government or of any State or foreign government. No label, other than stamps authorized or required by the United States Government or any State or foreign government, shall state or indicate that the malt beverage contained in the labeled container is brewed, made, bottled, packed, labeled, or sold under, or in accordance with, any municipal, State, Federal, or foreign government authorization, law, or regulation, unless such statement is required or specifically authorized by Federal, State, or municipal, law or regulation, or is required or specifically authorized by the laws or regulations of the foreign country in which such malt beverages were produced. If the municipal or State government permit number is stated upon a label, it shall not be accompanied by an additional statement relating thereto, unless required by State law.

(c) *Use of word "bonded", etc.* The words "bonded", "bottled in bond", "aged in bond", "bonded age", "bottled under customs supervision", or phrases containing these or synonymous terms which imply governmental supervision over production, bottling, or packing, shall not be used on any label for malt beverages.

(d) *Flags, seals, coats of arms, crests, and other insignia.* Labels shall not contain, in the brand name or otherwise, any statement, design, device, or pictorial representation which the appropriate ATF officer finds relates to, or is capable of being construed as relating to, the armed forces of the United States, or the American flag, or any emblem, seal, insignia, or decoration associated with such flag or armed forces; nor shall any label contain any statement, design, device, or pictorial representation of or concerning any flag, seal, coat of arms, crest or other insignia, likely to mislead the consumer to believe that the product has been endorsed, made, or used by, or produced for, or under the supervision of, or in accordance with the specifications of the government, organization, family, or individual with whom such flag, seal, coat of arms, crest, or insignia is associated.

(e) *Health-related statements*—(1) *Definitions.* When used in this paragraph (e), terms are defined as follows:

(i) *Health-related statement* means any statement related to health (other than the warning statement required by § 16.21 of this chapter) and includes statements of a curative or therapeutic nature that, expressly or by implication, suggest a relationship between the consumption of alcohol, malt beverages, or any substance found within the malt beverage, and health benefits or effects on health. The term includes both specific health claims and general references to alleged health benefits or effects on health associated with the consumption of alcohol, malt beverages, or any substance found within the malt beverage, as well as health-related directional statements. The term also includes statements and claims that imply that a physical or psychological sensation results from consuming the malt beverage, as well as statements and claims of nutritional value (e.g., statements of vitamin content). Statements concerning caloric, carbohydrate, protein, and fat content do not constitute nutritional claims about the product.

(ii) *Specific health claim* is a type of health-related statement that, expressly or by implication, characterizes the relationship of the malt beverage, alcohol, or any substance found within the malt beverage, to a disease or health-related condition. Implied specific health claims include statements, symbols, vignettes, or other forms of communication that suggest, within the context in which they are presented, that a relationship exists between malt beverages, alcohol, or any substance found within the malt beverage, and a disease or health-related condition.

(iii) *Health-related directional statement* is a type of health-related statement that directs or refers consumers to a third party or other source for information regarding the effects on health of malt beverage or alcohol consumption.

(2) *Rules for labeling*—(i) *Health-related statements*. In general, labels may not contain any health-related statement that is untrue in any particular or tends to create a misleading impression as to the effects on health of alcohol consumption. TTB will evaluate such statements on a case-by-case

basis and may require as part of the health-related statement a disclaimer or some other qualifying statement to dispel any misleading impression conveyed by the health-related statement.

(ii) *Specific health claims*. (A) TTB will consult with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as needed, on the use of a specific health claim on a malt beverage label. If FDA determines that the use of such a labeling claim is a drug claim that is not in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, TTB will not approve the use of that specific health claim on a malt beverage label.

(B) TTB will approve the use of a specific health claim on a malt beverage label only if the claim is truthful and adequately substantiated by scientific or medical evidence; sufficiently detailed and qualified with respect to the categories of individuals to whom the claim applies; adequately discloses the health risks associated with both moderate and heavier levels of alcohol consumption; and outlines the categories of individuals for whom any levels of alcohol consumption may cause health risks. This information must appear as part of the specific health claim.

(iii) *Health-related directional statements*. A statement that directs consumers to a third party or other source for information regarding the effects on health of malt beverage or alcohol consumption is presumed misleading unless it—

(A) Directs consumers in a neutral or other non-misleading manner to a third party or other source for balanced information regarding the effects on health of malt beverage or alcohol consumption; and

(B)(1) Includes as part of the health-related directional statement the following disclaimer: “This statement should not encourage you to drink or to increase your alcohol consumption for health reasons;” or

(2) Includes as part of the health-related directional statement some other qualifying statement that the appropriate TTB officer finds is sufficient to dispel any misleading impression conveyed by the health-related directional statement.

(f) *Use of words “strong,” “full strength,” and similar words*. Labels

§ 7.30

shall not contain the words “strong,” “full strength,” “extra strength,” “high test,” “high proof,” “pre-war strength,” “full oldtime alcoholic strength,” or similar words or statements, likely to be considered as statements of alcoholic content, unless required by State law. This does not preclude use of the terms “low alcohol,” “reduced alcohol,” “non-alcoholic,” and “alcohol-free,” in accordance with § 7.71 (d), (e), and (f), nor does it preclude labeling with the alcohol content in accordance with § 7.71.

(g) *Use of numerals.* Labels shall not contain any statements, designs, or devices, whether in the form of numerals, letters, characters, figures, or otherwise, which are likely to be considered as statements of alcoholic content, unless required by State law, or as permitted by § 7.71.

(h) *Coverings, cartons, or cases.* Individual coverings, cartons, cases, or other wrappers of containers of malt beverages, used for sale at retail, or any written, printed, graphic, or other matter accompanying the container shall not contain any statement or any graphic pictorial, or emblematic representation, or other matter, which is prohibited from appearing on any label or container of malt beverages.

[T.D. 6521, 25 FR 13859, Dec. 29, 1960, as amended by T.D. ATF-66, 45 FR 40552, June 13, 1980; T.D. ATF-180, 49 FR 31674, Aug. 8, 1984; T.D. ATF 280, 54 FR 3594, Jan. 25, 1989; T.D. ATF-339, 58 FR 21232, Apr. 19, 1993; TTB T.D.-1, 68 FR 10105, Mar. 3, 2003]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By TTB T.D.-21, 70 FR 234, Jan. 3, 2005, § 7.29 was amended by revising the introductory text of paragraph (a) and by adding a new paragraph (a)(7), effective Jan. 3, 2006. For the convenience of the user, the revised and added text is set forth as follows:

§ 7.29 Prohibited practices.

(a) *Statements on labels.* Containers of malt beverages, or any labels on such containers, or any carton, case, or individual covering of such containers, used for sale at retail, or any written, printed, graphic, or other material accompanying such containers to the consumer, must not contain:

\* \* \* \* \*

(7) Any statement, design, device, or representation that tends to create a false or misleading impression that the malt bev-

erage contains distilled spirits or is a distilled spirits product. This paragraph does not prohibit the following on malt beverage labels:

- (i) A truthful and accurate statement of alcohol content, in conformity with § 7.71;
- (ii) The use of a brand name of a distilled spirits product as a malt beverage brand name, provided that the overall label does not present a misleading impression about the identity of the product; or
- (iii) The use of a cocktail name as a brand name or fanciful name of a malt beverage, provided that the overall label does not present a misleading impression about the identity of the product.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Subpart D—Requirements for Withdrawal of Imported Malt Beverages From Customs Custody**

§ 7.30 Application.

Sections 7.30 and 7.31 shall apply to withdrawals of malt beverages from customs custody only in the event that the laws or regulations of the State in which such malt beverages are withdrawn for consumption require that all malt beverages sold or otherwise disposed of in such State be labeled in conformity with the requirements of §§ 7.20 through 7.29.

§ 7.31 Label approval and release.

(a) *Certificate of label approval.* No imported malt beverages in containers shall be released from Customs custody for consumption unless there is deposited with the appropriate Customs officer at the port of entry the original or a photostatic copy of an approved certificate of label approval, ATF Form 5100.31.

(b) *Release.* If the original or photostatic copy of ATF Form 5100.31 has been approved, the brand or lot of imported malt beverages bearing labels identical with those shown thereon may be released from U.S. Customs custody.

(c) *Relabeling.* Imported malt beverages in U.S. Customs custody which are not labeled in conformity with certificates of label approval issued by the