

Internal Revenue Service on alcoholic beverage bottles and other requirements may be imposed by reason of the nature of the contents by other Government agencies.

**§ 134.22 General rules for marking of containers or holders.**

(a) *Contents excepted from marking.* When an article is excepted from the marking requirements by subpart D of this part, the outermost container or holder in which the article ordinarily reaches the ultimate purchaser shall be marked to indicate the country of origin of the article whether or not the article is marked to indicate its country of origin.

(b) *Containers or holders treated as imported articles.* Containers or holders for imported merchandise which are subject to treatment as imported articles under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), shall be marked to indicate clearly the country of their own origin in addition to any marking which may be required to show the country of origin of their contents; however, no marking is required for any good of a NAFTA country which is a usual container.

(c) *Containers or holders bearing a U.S. address.* Containers or holders of imported merchandise bearing the name and address of an importer, distributor, or other person or company in the United States shall be marked in close proximity to the U.S. address to indicate clearly the country of origin of the contents with a marking such as "Contents made in France" or "Contents Product of Spain."

(d) *Usual containers—(1) "Usual container" defined.* For purposes of this subpart, a usual container means the container in which a good will ordinarily reach its ultimate purchaser. Containers which are not included in the price of the goods with which they are sold, or which impart the essential character to the whole, or which have significant uses, or lasting value independent of the contents, will generally not be regarded as usual containers. However, the fact that a container is sturdy and capable of repeated use with its contents does not preclude it from being considered a usual container so long as it is the type of container in

which its contents are ordinarily sold. A usual container may be any type of container, including one which is specially shaped or fitted to contain a specific good or set of goods such as a camera case or an eyeglass case, or packing, storage and transportation materials.

(2) *A good of a NAFTA country which is a usual container.* A good of a NAFTA country which is a usual container, whether or not disposable and whether or not imported empty or filled, is not required to be marked with its own country of origin. If imported empty, the importer must be able to provide satisfactory evidence to Customs at the time of importation that it will be used only as a usual container (that it is to be filled with goods after importation and that such container is of a type in which these goods ordinarily reach the ultimate purchaser).

(e) *Exceptions.* Containers or holders of imported articles are not required to be marked if:

(1) *Excepted articles.* They are containers or holders of articles within the exceptions set forth in paragraph (f), (g), or (h) in §134.32 or they are containers of a good of a NAFTA country within the exceptions set forth in paragraph (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (p) or (q) of §134.32.

(2) *Excepted containers or holders.* The container or holder itself is within an exception set forth in subpart D of this part.

(3) *To be filled by the importer.* The container or holder is within the exception set forth in §134.24(c).

[T.D. 72-262, 37 FR 20318, Sept. 29, 1972, as amended by T.D. 94-1, 58 FR 69471, Dec. 30, 1993]

**§ 134.23 Containers or holders designed for or capable of reuse.**

(a) *Usual and ordinary reusable containers or holders.* Except for goods of a NAFTA country which are usual containers, containers or holders designed for or capable of reuse after the contents have been consumed, whether imported full or empty, must be individually marked to indicate the country of their own origin with a marking such as, "Container Made in (name of country)." Examples of the containers or holders contemplated are heavy

duty steel drums, tanks, and other similar shipping, storage, transportation containers or holders capable of reuse. These containers or holders are subject to the treatment specified in General Rule of Interpretation 5(b), Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(b) *Other reusable containers or holders.* Containers or holders which give the whole importation its essential character, as described in General Rule of Interpretation 5(a) (19 U.S.C. 1202), must be individually marked to clearly indicate their own origin with a marking such as, "Container made in (name of country)." Examples of the containers contemplated are mustard jars reusable as beer mugs; shaving soap containers reusable as shaving mugs; fancy cologne bottles reusable as flower vases, and other containers which have a lasting value or decorative use.

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**§ 134.24 Containers or holders not designed for or capable of reuse.**

(a) *Containers ordinarily discarded after use.* Disposable containers or holders subject to the provisions of this section are the usual ordinary types of containers or holders, including cans, bottles, paper or polyethylene bags, paperboard boxes, and similar containers or holders which are ordinarily discarded after the contents have been consumed.

(b) *Imported empty.* Disposable containers or holders imported for distribution or sale are subject to treatment as imported articles in accordance with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), and shall be marked to indicate clearly the country of their own origin. However, when the containers are packed and sold in multiple units (dozens, gross, etc.), this requirement ordinarily may be met by marking the outermost container which reaches the ultimate purchaser.

(c) *Imported to be filled—(1) If unmarked.* When disposable containers or holders or usual containers which are goods of a NAFTA country are imported by persons or firms who fill or package them with various products

which they sell, these persons or firms are the "ultimate purchasers" of these containers or holders or usual containers which are goods of a NAFTA country and they may be excepted from individual marking pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1304(a)(3)(D). The outside wrappings or packages containing the containers shall be clearly marked to indicate the country of origin.

(2) *If marked.* If the disposable containers or holders or the usual containers which are goods of a NAFTA country are marked with the country of origin at the time of importation and the marking will be visible after they are filled, the marking shall clearly indicate that the container only and not the contents were made in the named country. For example, bottles, drums, or other containers imported empty, to be filled in the United States, shall be marked with such words as "Bottle (or container) made in (name of country)."

(d) *Imported full—(1) When contents are excepted from marking.* Usual disposable containers in use as such at the time of importation shall not be required to be marked to show the country of their own origin, but shall be marked to indicate the origin of their contents regardless of the fact that the contents are excepted from marking requirements; however, such marking is not required if the contents are excepted from marking requirements under paragraph (f), (g), or (h) of § 134.32 or, in the case of a good of a NAFTA country, under paragraph (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (p) or (q) of that section.

(2) *Sealed containers or holders.* Disposable containers or holders of imported merchandise, which are sold without normally being opened by the ultimate purchaser (e.g., individually wrapped soap bars or tennis balls in a vacuum sealed can), shall be marked to indicate the country of origin of their contents.

(3) *Unsealed containers.* Unsealed disposable containers of imported merchandise normally unopened by the ultimate purchaser, may be excepted from marking if the article is so marked that the country of origin is clearly visible without unpacking the container. However, if the container is