§ 26.311 Scope of subpart.

The provisions of this subpart shall apply only to liquor bottles having a capacity of 200 ml. or more except where expressly applied to liquor bottles of less than 200 ml. capacity.


§ 26.312 Standards of fill.

Distilled spirits brought into the United States from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands in containers of 1 gallon (3.785 liters) or less for sale shall be in liquor bottles, including liquor bottles of less than 200 ml. capacity, which conform to the applicable standards of fill provided in § 5.47 or § 5.47a of this chapter. Empty liquor bottles, including liquor bottles of less than 200 ml capacity, which conform to the provisions of subpart E of part 5 or part 19 of this chapter, may be brought into the United States for packaging distilled spirits as provided in part 19 of this chapter.


§ 26.314 Distinctive liquor bottles.

(a) Application. Liquor bottles of distinctive shape or design, including bottles of less than 200 ml. capacity, may be brought into the United States from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands by an importer (filled bottles) or a bottler (empty bottles). For filled bottles, the importer shall submit TTB Form 5100.31 for approval prior to bringing such bottles into the United States. For empty bottles, the bottler shall obtain approval on TTB Form 5100.31 prior to using the bottles. The importer or bottler, as applicable, shall certify as to the total capacity of a
representative sample bottle before closure (expressed in milliliters) on each copy of the form. In addition, the applicant shall affix a readily legible photograph (both front and back of the bottle) to the front of each copy of TTB Form 5100.31, along with the label(s) to be used on the bottle. The applicant shall not submit an actual bottle or an authentic model unless specifically requested to do so.

(b) Approval. Properly submitted TTB Forms 5100.31 to bring distinctive liquor bottles (filled) into the United States from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, or, properly submitted TTB Forms 5100.31 to use distinctive liquor bottles (empty) which have been brought into the United States from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, shall be approved provided such bottles are found by the appropriate TTB officer to—

(1) Meet the requirements of 27 CFR part 5;
(2) Be distinctive;
(3) Be suitable for their intended purpose;
(4) Not jeopardize the revenue; and
(5) Not be deceptive to the consumer.

The applicant shall keep a copy of the approved TTB Form 5100.31, including an approved photograph (both front and back) of the distinctive liquor bottle, on file at his premises. If TTB Form 5100.31 is disapproved, the applicant shall notify the appropriate TTB officer of the reasons therefor. The applicant importer is responsible for furnishing a copy of the approved TTB Form 5100.31, including a photograph of the distinctive liquor bottle, to Customs officials at each affected port of entry where the merchandise is examined.

§ 26.317 Bottles to be used for display purposes.

Empty liquor bottles may be brought into the United States and may be furnished to liquor dealers for display purposes, provided each bottle is marked to show that it is to be used for such purpose. Any paper strip used to seal the bottle shall be of solid color and without design or printing, except that a border or a design, formed entirely of the legend “not genuine—for display purposes only” is permissible. Records shall be kept of the receipt and disposition of such bottles, showing the names and addresses of consignees, dates of shipment, and size, quantity, and description of bottles.

§ 26.318 Liquor bottles denied entry.

Filled liquor bottles not conforming to the provisions of this subpart shall be denied entry into the United States: Provided, That, upon letterhead application, in triplicate, the appropriate TTB officer may, in nonrecurring cases, authorize the release from customs custody of distilled spirits in bottles, except those coming under the provisions of §26.316, which, through unintentional error, do not conform to the provisions of this subpart, if such officer finds that such release will not afford jeopardy to the revenue.

§ 26.319 Used liquor bottles.

The appropriate TTB officer may pursuant to letterhead application filed in triplicate, authorize an importer to receive liquor bottles assembled for him as provided in §31.263 of