

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of February 6, 2026 (91 FR 5295), FDA issued a final order, *Listing of Color Additives Exempt from Certification; Beetroot Red*, to provide for the safe use of beetroot red for the coloring of human foods generally, at levels consistent with current good manufacturing practice, except in products under the jurisdiction of USDA, infant formula, or foods for which standards of identity have been issued under section 401 of the FD&C Act, unless the use of the added color is authorized by such standards. Specifically, the final order added a new § 73.39, titled “Beetroot red,” (21 CFR 73.39). We issued the final order in response to a color additive petition submitted by Phytolon, Ltd. We gave interested persons until March 9, 2026, to file objections and requests for a hearing on the final order.

We received a submission from GMO/Toxin Free USA containing objections that meet the conditions set forth in 21 CFR 12.22 to initiate a stay of the effective date of the final order. See Submission from GMO/Toxin Free USA, to the Dockets Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, dated March 5, 2026, at pages 1–6. In addition to the objections submitted by GMO/Toxin Free USA, we received other comments that opposed the final order, but none of them appear to be an objection under 21 CFR 12.22 nor do any of them request a hearing. We plan to address the objections in a future document.

Under sections 701(e)(2) and 721(d) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 371(e)(2) and 379e(d)), within 30 days after publication of an order relating to a color additive regulation, any person adversely affected by such an order may file objections, specifying with particularity the provisions of the order deemed objectionable, stating the grounds therefor, and requesting a public hearing upon such objections. The filing of the objections operates to delay the effective date of the final order until we take final action on the objections.¹ Our announcement of the delay of the effective date of the final order does not reflect a change in our determination that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from the use of this color additive under the proposed conditions of its intended use. In addition, this notification does not constitute a determination that all of the issues raised in the submission constitute objections or that a hearing is

justified on any submissions that have been filed.

For access to the docket to read the objections received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number FDA–2024–C–1085 into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Grace R. Graham,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–05732 Filed 3–20–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4164–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 73

[Docket No. FDA–2024–C–3384]

Listing of Color Additive Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Delay of Effective Date

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Final order; delay of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or we) is announcing a delay of the effective date of our February 6, 2026, final order to amend the color additive regulations to provide for the expanded safe use of spirulina (*Arthrospira platensis*) extract as a color additive in human foods generally (except for infant formula, certain foods subject to regulation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and foods for which standards of identity have been issued under section 401 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), unless the use of the added color is authorized by such standards) at levels consistent with good manufacturing practice (GMP); to lower the heavy metal specifications for lead, arsenic, and mercury; and to add a specification for cadmium. The delay of the effective date is required by law following the filing of timely objections and a request for a hearing on the final order. This announcement does not reflect a change in our determination that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from the use of this color additive under the conditions of its intended use. In addition, this announcement does not constitute a determination that all of the issues raised in the submission constitute objections or that a hearing is justified on any objections or requests for a hearing that have been filed.

DATES: As of March 20, 2026, the effective date of the final order published February 6, 2026 (91 FR 5291) is delayed indefinitely. The Food and Drug Administration will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing a new effective date or other administrative action on the order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marissa Santos, Office of Pre-Market Additive Safety, Human Foods Program, Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Dr., College Park, MD 20740, 240–402–8160; or Meredith L. Kelsch, Office of Policy and International Engagement, Human Foods Program, Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Dr., College Park, MD 20740, 240–402–2378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of February 6, 2026 (91 FR 5291), FDA issued a final order, *Listing of Color Additives Exempt from Certification; Spirulina Extract*, to provide for the expanded safe use of spirulina (*Arthrospira platensis*) extract as a color additive in human foods generally (except for infant formula, certain foods subject to regulation by the USDA, and foods for which standards of identity have been issued under section 401 of the FD&C Act, unless the use of the added color is authorized by such standards) at levels consistent with good manufacturing practice (GMP); to lower the heavy metal specifications for lead, arsenic, and mercury; and to add a specification for cadmium. Specifically, the final order amended § 73.530, titled “Spirulina extract,” (21 CFR 73.530). We issued the final order in response to a color additive petition submitted by GNT USA, LLC. We gave interested persons until March 9, 2026, to file objections and requests for a hearing on the final order.

Obelisk Tech Systems Inc. submitted objections and a request for a hearing. See Submission from Obelisk Tech Systems Inc., to the Dockets Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, submitted March 7, 2026. In addition to the objections and request for a hearing submitted by Obelisk Tech Systems Inc, we received another comment that opposed the final order, but does not appear to be an objection under 21 CFR 12.22 nor does it request a hearing. We plan to address the objections and request for a hearing in a future document.

Under sections 701(e)(2) and 721(d) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 371(e)(2) and 379e(d)), within 30 days after publication of an order relating to a color additive regulation, any person adversely affected by such an order may file objections, specifying with

¹ Although the statute uses the word “stay,” this delay effectuates the same result.

particularity the provisions of the order deemed objectionable, stating the grounds therefor, and requesting a public hearing upon such objections. The filing of the objections operates to delay the effective date of the final order until we take final action on the objections.¹ Our announcement of the delay of the effective date of the final order does not reflect a change in our determination that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from the use of this color additive under the proposed conditions of its intended use. In addition, this notification does not constitute a determination that all of the issues raised in the submission constitute objections or that a hearing is justified on any objections or requests for hearing that have been filed.

For access to the docket to read the objections received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number FDA-2024-C-3384 into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Grace R. Graham,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026-05733 Filed 3-20-26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4164-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Part 135

[Public Notice: 12969]

RIN 1400-AG20

Amendments to HAVANA Act of 2021 Implementation Rules

Correction

In rule document 2026-05113 beginning on page 12509 in the issue of Monday, March 16, 2026, make the following correction:

§ 135.3 [Corrected]

■ 1. On page 12510, in § 135.3, in the second column, in the sixth and seventh lines from the bottom, "March 16, 2026, have until March 16, 2026" should read "March 16, 2026, have until May 15, 2026".

[FR Doc. C1-2026-05113 Filed 3-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0099-10-D

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

27 CFR Part 9

[Docket No. TTB-2023-0012; T.D. TTB-204; Notice No. 230]

RIN 1513-AD07

Establishment of the Nashoba Valley Viticultural Area

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; Treasury decision.

SUMMARY: The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) establishes the approximately 18,367-acre "Nashoba Valley" American viticultural area (AVA) in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The Nashoba Valley viticultural area is not located within, nor does it contain, any other established viticultural area. TTB designates viticultural areas to allow vintners to better describe the origin of their wines and to allow consumers to better identify wines they may purchase.

DATES: This final rule is effective April 23, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen A. Thornton, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street NW, Box 12, Washington, DC 20005; phone 202-453-1039, ext. 175.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on Viticultural Areas

TTB Authority

Section 105(e) of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (FAA Act), 27 U.S.C. 205(e), authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for the labeling of wine, distilled spirits, and malt beverages. The FAA Act provides that these regulations should, among other things, prohibit consumer deception and the use of misleading statements on labels and ensure that labels provide the consumer with adequate information as to the identity and quality of the product. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) administers the FAA Act pursuant to section 1111(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified at 6 U.S.C. 531(d). In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated certain administrative and enforcement authorities to TTB through Treasury Order 120-01.

Part 4 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 4) authorizes TTB to establish

definitive viticultural areas and regulate the use of their names as appellations of origin on wine labels and in wine advertisements. Part 9 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 9) sets forth standards for the preparation and submission of petitions for the establishment or modification of American viticultural areas (AVAs) and lists the approved AVAs.

Definition

Section 4.25(e)(1)(i) of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 4.25(e)(1)(i)) defines a viticultural area for American wine as a delimited grape-growing region having distinguishing features as described in part 9 of the regulations and, once approved, a name and a delineated boundary codified in part 9 of the regulations. These designations allow vintners and consumers to attribute a given quality, reputation, or other characteristic of a wine made from grapes grown in an area to the wine's geographic origin. The establishment of AVAs allows vintners to describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers and helps consumers to identify wines they may purchase. Establishment of an AVA is neither an approval nor an endorsement by TTB of the wine produced in that area.

Requirements

Section 4.25(e)(2) of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 4.25(e)(2)) outlines the procedure for proposing an AVA and allows any interested party to petition TTB to establish a grape-growing region as an AVA. Section 9.12 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 9.12) prescribes standards for petitions to establish or modify AVAs. Petitions to establish an AVA must include the following:

- Evidence that the area within the proposed AVA boundary is nationally or locally known by the AVA name specified in the petition;
- An explanation of the basis for defining the boundary of the proposed AVA;
- A narrative description of the features of the proposed AVA affecting viticulture, such as climate, geology, soils, physical features, and elevation, that make the proposed AVA distinctive and distinguish it from adjacent areas outside the proposed AVA;
- If the proposed AVA is to be established within, or overlapping, an existing AVA, an explanation that both identifies the attributes of the proposed AVA that are consistent with the existing AVA and explains how the proposed AVA is sufficiently distinct from the existing AVA and therefore appropriate for separate recognition;

¹ Although the statute uses the word "stay," this delay effectuates the same result.