



Q&A on TTB Shutdown

Nine out of 15 federal government departments are currently closed and will remain closed until the President and Congress can reach agreement and enact funding legislation to reopen these departments. The Treasury Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commerce Department are among the departments that are impacted.

The government closure affects several key agencies that have oversight of the alcohol industry, including the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB), U.S. Customs & Border Patrol, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within USDA. During this time, federal employees and contractors at these agencies have been advised not to report to work, and all communication is suspended.

Below are frequently asked questions and answers relating to the shutdown.

- Q.** Are Federal Government websites, including TTB, accessible during the shutdown?
A. Yes, the TTB website as well as other agency websites are available during the shutdown, however these sites will not be updated until funding is approved, and the shutdown ends.
- Q.** Are TTB's eGovernment applications accessible?
A. Yes, individuals are still able to access TTB's eGovernment site and submit applications, including Permits Online, Formulas Online, and COLAs Online, during the shutdown. However, submissions will not be reviewed or approved until the shutdown ends.
- Q.** Is there someone at TTB to assist people needing guidance?
A. No, TTB personnel will not be available to answer questions, online or over the phone. TTB employees will not be working during the shutdown.
- Q.** Am I able to file electronic payments and reports to TTB during the shutdown?
A. Yes, all operational reports and FET payments are still due during the government shutdown so individuals will be able to file electronic payments and returns for federal excise taxes and reports through <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/>. If one mails reports to TTB, that can continue to be done as well.
- Q.** Will wineries be able to bottle its product or import wine without an approved COLA from TTB?
A. No, The COLA authorizes wineries to bottle or pack the product and to remove the product identified on the certificate from the stated location, or to remove products from Customs custody. However, some changes can be made to existing approved labels without a new COLA. That information is available on the TTB website at <https://ttb.gov/allowable-revisions/label-generator.shtml> .

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