

Bulletin



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No. AB-29

October 24, 2000

TO: Non-Resident Dealers and Wholesalers of Malt Beverage Products

SUBJECT: New Beer Franchise System - - Reporting Requirements

Section A(5) of Regulation 03.02.04.01 requires suppliers of malt beverage products to file with this office, on forms prescribed by the comptroller, a beer franchise form for each brand of beer distributed in this state. The original computer system that captured this data was implemented over 20 years ago. This obsolete main-frame system has now been replaced with a state of the art PC based system.

To insure the new system has the most accurate and up to date information available, it will be necessary for all suppliers of malt beverage products to file new franchise filings designating all brands currently being distributed in Maryland. As with previous filings, you must designate each wholesaler and territory. No filings may conflict with any active filings, nor may they be contrary to any of the provisions of the Maryland Beer Franchise Fair Dealing Act. Any Maryland wholesaler who subdistributes a beer product to another wholesaler in Maryland, or who serves as a "secondary source" for another wholesaler, must also file the new forms.

We recognize that it will take some time to prepare the new comprehensive filings, especially for larger suppliers. Therefore, the new filings will not be due until **February 1, 2001**. While we have provided a delayed due date, earlier submissions will assist us with our data entry schedule and overall implementation.

A supply of revised form 528 ATTD is enclosed for your use. Please feel free to duplicate as needed. If you have previously submitted your franchise assignments on a facsimile form, your layout should be modified to reflect our revised form. Forms submitted in a different format cannot be processed and will be returned.

Remember, the filings you submit on or before February 1, 2001 will replace in their entirety all active filings now on file. Thank you for your cooperation. Questions concerning the new forms and procedures should be directed to Mrs. Denise Davis at 410-260-7321.

Charles W. Ehart, DPA
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division

Enclosures

