

benefiting any person who produces more than 2,000,000 barrels of beer during a calendar year.

(3) Tolerances

Where the Secretary or his delegate finds that the revenue will not be endangered thereby, he may by regulations prescribe tolerances for barrels and fractional parts of barrels, and, if such tolerances are prescribed, no assessment shall be made and no tax shall be collected for any excess in any case where the contents of a barrel or a fractional part of a barrel are within the limit of the applicable tolerance prescribed.

(b) Assessment on materials used in production in case of fraud

Nothing contained in this subpart or subchapter G shall be construed to authorize an assessment on the quantity of materials used in producing or purchased for the purpose of producing beer, nor shall the quantity of materials so used or purchased be evidence, for the purpose of taxation, of the quantity of beer produced; but the tax on all beer shall be paid as provided in section 5054, and not otherwise; except that this subsection shall not apply to cases of fraud, and nothing in this subsection shall have the effect to change the rules of law respecting evidence in any prosecution or suit.

(c) Illegally produced beer

The production of any beer at any place in the United States shall be subject to tax at the rate prescribed in subsection (a) and such tax shall be due and payable as provided in section 5054(a)(3) unless—

- (1) such beer is produced in a brewery qualified under the provisions of subchapter G, or
- (2) such production is exempt from tax under section 5053(e) (relating to beer for personal or family use).

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1333; amended Pub. L. 86-75, §3(a)(6), June 30, 1959, 73 Stat. 157; Pub. L. 86-564, title II, §202(a)(8), June 30, 1960, 74 Stat. 290; Pub. L. 87-72, §3(a)(8), June 30, 1961, 75 Stat. 193; Pub. L. 87-508, §3(a)(7), June 28, 1962, 76 Stat. 114; Pub. L. 88-52, §3(a)(8), June 29, 1963, 77 Stat. 72; Pub. L. 88-348, §2(a)(8), June 30, 1964, 78 Stat. 237; Pub. L. 89-44, title V, §501(d), June 21, 1965, 79 Stat. 150; Pub. L. 94-529, §1, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2485; Pub. L. 95-458, §2(b)(2)(A), Oct. 14, 1978, 92 Stat. 1256; Pub. L. 101-508, title XI, §11201(c), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-416.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5051, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 611, as amended by acts Mar. 30, 1955, ch. 18, §3(a)(8), 69 Stat. 14; Mar. 29, 1956, ch. 115, §3(a)(8), 70 Stat. 66; Mar. 29, 1957, Pub. L. 85-12, §3(a)(6), 71 Stat. 9; June 30, 1958, Pub. L. 85-475, §3(a)(6), 72 Stat. 259, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

AMENDMENTS

- 1990—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 101-508, §11201(c)(1), substituted “\$18” for “\$9”.
- Subsec. (a)(2)(C). Pub. L. 101-508, §11201(c)(2), added subpar. (C).
- 1978—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 95-458 added subsec. (c).

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-529 reduced the excise tax on beer for small brewers to \$7 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels produced in the United States and removed for sale or consumption or sale during the calendar year, the reduced rate to be applicable only to brewers producing no more than 2 million barrels of beer in a calendar year, and inserted provision that if several brewers are members of a controlled group, the 2-million barrel limit is to be applied to the controlled group and the 60,000-barrel limit is to be apportioned among the members of the controlled group in accordance with Treasury Department regulations promulgated by the Secretary or his delegate.

1965—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 89-44 struck out sentence providing for the imposition on and after July 1, 1965, of a tax of \$8 in lieu of the tax imposed by the section.

1964—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 88-348 substituted “July 1, 1965” for “July 1, 1964”.

1963—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 88-52 substituted “July 1, 1964” for “July 1, 1963”.

1962—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 87-508 substituted “July 1, 1963” for “July 1, 1962”.

1961—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 87-72 substituted “July 1, 1962” for “July 1, 1961”.

1960—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-564 substituted “July 1, 1961” for “July 1, 1960”.

1959—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-75 substituted “July 1, 1960” for “July 1, 1959”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-508 effective Jan. 1, 1991, see section 11201(d) of Pub. L. 101-508, set out as a note under section 5001 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-458 effective on first day of first calendar month beginning more than 90 days after Oct. 14, 1978, see section 2(c) of Pub. L. 95-458, set out as a note under section 5042 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-529, §2, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2486, provided that: “The amendment made by the first section of this Act [amending this section] shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar year which begins after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 17, 1976].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1965 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 89-44 applicable on and after July 1, 1965, see section 701(d) of Pub. L. 89-44, set out as a note under section 5701 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1959, see section 210(a)(1) of Pub. L. 85-859, set out as a note under section 5001 of this title.

FLOOR STOCKS TAXES ON DISTILLED SPIRITS, WINE, AND BEER

Imposition of tax on beer, exception for small domestic producers, exception for certain small wholesale or retail dealers, credit against tax, liability for tax and method of payment, controlled groups, other laws applicable, and definitions, see section 11201(e) of Pub. L. 101-508, set out as a note under section 5001 of this title.

§ 5052. Definitions

(a) Beer

For purposes of this chapter (except when used with reference to distilling or distilling material) the term beer means beer, ale, porter, stout, and other similar fermented beverages (including sake or similar products) of any name or description containing one-half of 1 percent or more of alcohol by volume, brewed or produced from malt, wholly or in part, or from any substitute therefor.

(b) Gallon

For purposes of this subpart, the term gallon means the liquid measure containing 231 cubic inches.

(c) Removed for consumption of sale

Except as provided for in the case of removal of beer without payment of tax, the term “removed for consumption or sale”, for the purposes of this subpart means—

(1) Sale of beer

The sale and transfer of possession of beer for consumption at the brewery; or

(2) Removals

Any removal of beer from the brewery.

(d) Brewer

For purposes of this chapter, the term “brewer” means any person who brews beer or produces beer for sale. Such term shall not include any person who produces only beer exempt from tax under section 5053(e).

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1333; amended Pub. L. 91-673, §1(b), Jan. 12, 1971, 84 Stat. 2056; Pub. L. 109-59, title XI, §11125(b)(15), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1956.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5052, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 612, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-59 amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “For definition of brewer, see section 5092.”

1971—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 91-673 struck out proviso that removal of beer shall not include beer returned to the brewery on the same day such beer is removed from the brewery.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2005 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-59 effective July 1, 2008, but inapplicable to taxes imposed for periods before such date, see section 11125(c) of Pub. L. 109-59, set out as a note under section 5002 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-673 effective on first day of first calendar month which begins more than 90 days after Jan. 12, 1971, see section 5 of Pub. L. 91-673, set out as a note under section 5056 of this title.

§ 5053. Exemptions**(a) Removals for export**

Beer may be removed from the brewery, without payment of tax, for export, in such containers and under such regulations, and on the giving of such notices, entries, and bonds and other security, as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe.

(b) Removals when unfit for beverage use

When beer has become sour or damaged, so as to be incapable of use as such, a brewer may remove the same from his brewery without payment of tax, for manufacturing purposes, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

(c) Removals for laboratory analysis

Beer may be removed from the brewery, without payment of tax, for laboratory analysis, sub-

ject to such limitations and under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

(d) Removals for research, development, or testing

Under such conditions and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, beer may be removed from the brewery without payment of tax for use in research, development, or testing (other than consumer testing or other market analysis) of processes, systems, materials, or equipment relating to beer or brewery operations.

(e) Beer for personal or family use

Subject to regulation prescribed by the Secretary, any adult may, without payment of tax, produce beer for personal or family use and not for sale. The aggregate amount of beer exempt from tax under this subsection with respect to any household shall not exceed—

(1) 200 gallons per calendar year if there are 2 or more adults in such household, or

(2) 100 gallons per calendar year if there is only 1 adult in such household.

For purposes of this subsection, the term “adult” means an individual who has attained 18 years of age, or the minimum age (if any) established by law applicable in the locality in which the household is situated at which beer may be sold to individuals, whichever is greater.

(f) Removal for use as distilling material

Subject to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, beer may be removed from a brewery without payment of tax to any distilled spirits plant for use as distilling material.

(g) Removals for use of foreign embassies, legations, etc.**(1) In general**

Subject to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe—

(A) beer may be withdrawn from the brewery without payment of tax for transfer to any customs bonded warehouse for entry pending withdrawal therefrom as provided in subparagraph (B), and

(B) beer entered into any customs bonded warehouse under subparagraph (A) may be withdrawn for consumption in the United States by, and for the official and family use of, such foreign governments, organizations, and individuals as are entitled to withdraw imported beer from such warehouses free of tax.

Beer transferred to any customs bonded warehouse under subparagraph (A) shall be entered, stored, and accounted for in such warehouse under such regulations and bonds as the Secretary may prescribe, and may be withdrawn therefrom by such governments, organizations, and individuals free of tax under the same conditions and procedures as imported beer.

(2) Other rules to apply

Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 5362(e) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(h) Removals for destruction

Subject to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, beer may be removed from the brewery without payment of tax for destruction.