

Business activity	Controlled substances	DEA application forms	Application fee (\$)	Registration period (years)	Coincident activities allowed
(x) Chemical Analysis	Schedules I–V	New—225 Renewal—225a	130 130	1	May manufacture and import controlled substances for analytical or instructional activities; may distribute such substances to persons registered or authorized to conduct chemical analysis, instructional activities, or research with such substances and to persons exempted from registration pursuant to section 1301.24; may export such substances to persons in other countries performing chemical analysis or enforcing laws related to controlled substances or drugs in those countries; and may conduct instructional activities with controlled substances.

* * * * *

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Laura M. Nagel,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control.

[FR Doc. 03–25817 Filed 10–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–09–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

27 CFR Part 73

[T.D. TTB–5; Notice No. 5]

RIN 1513–AA61

Electronic Signatures; Electronic Submission of Forms (2000R–458P)

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), Treasury.

ACTION: Treasury decision, final rule.

SUMMARY: The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) amends its regulations to permit industry members to use electronic technology to reduce the need for and storage of paper documents. In order to accomplish our goals, we are adding a new part 73 that will allow you to use electronic, rather than handwritten, signatures to sign certain forms, and to submit certain forms to TTB electronically through a TTB-approved electronic document receiving system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 10, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa M. Gesser, Regulations and Procedures Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, P.O. Box 128, Morganza, MD 20660; telephone 301–290–1460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Will This Final Rule Do?

This final rule amends the regulations to allow you to:

- Use electronic signatures to sign certain forms you submit to us instead of using traditional handwritten signatures; and
- Submit certain forms to TTB electronically through an electronic document receiving system that we approve.

Why Does TTB Want To Allow You To Submit Certain Forms Electronically?

We believe that by giving you the option to submit certain forms electronically, instead of requiring paper documents, we can:

- Reduce the costs associated with submitting and maintaining large volumes of paper documents;
- Improve the quality and accessibility of data;
- Allow for the faster review and approval of a variety of documents; and
- Allow for a variety of our documents to be available around the clock.

What Is TTB's Authority To Implement These Regulations?

Our authority to implement these regulations comes from:

(1) *Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA)*. GPEA was signed into law on October 21, 1998. GPEA directs Federal agencies to provide for the optional use and acceptance of electronic documents and signatures, and electronic recordkeeping, where practical, by October 2003. (See Secs. 1702–1710 of Pub. L. 105–277.)

(2) *Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.)*. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to, by regulation, encourage electronic filing, address what constitutes a timely filed electronic

document, and develop procedures for the acceptance of signatures in digital or other electronic form. (See 26 U.S.C. 6011, 6061, and 7502.)

(3) *Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act of 2000 (E-SIGN)*. E-SIGN provides that no contract, signature, or record relating to a transaction shall be denied legal effect solely because it is in electronic form, nor may a document be denied legal effect solely because an electronic signature or record was used in its formation. E-SIGN applies to documents that are created in a commercial, consumer, or business transaction. It does not cover transactions that are uniquely governmental such as a compliance report. (See Public Law 106–229.)

(4) *Office of Management and Budget Circular A–130*. OMB's Circular A–130 requires agencies to employ electronic information collection techniques where such means will reduce the burden on the public, increase efficiency, reduce costs, and help provide better service. (See Circular A–130, Para. 8.a.1(k).)

How Does TTB Plan on Implementing Electronic Filing?

We are creating a new part 73 in title 27 CFR, chapter I, entitled “Electronic Signatures; Electronic Submission of Forms.” Part 73 explains our overall policy regarding electronic signatures and the electronic submission of certain forms to TTB.

Electronic Signatures

Upon the effective date of this final rule, we recognize electronic signatures executed to certain electronic forms as the full equivalent of, and having the same legal effect as, traditional handwritten signatures executed on paper. We will notify you, by publishing a general notice in the **Federal Register** and on our Web site (<http://>