NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: UNITED STATES

2. Agency responsible: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of Treasury (154)

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 7.3.2, 7.4.1, Other:

4. Products covered (CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):
   Vodka

5. Title: Labelling and advertising of distilled spirits, standard of identity for vodka

6. Description of content: Revenue ruling 59-98 holds that the addition of sugar and citric acid to vodka in accordance with the limitations specified in the ruling does not materially affect the taste or change the basic character of vodka. Products containing these ingredients within the limitations are allowed to be labelled as vodka. Recent test results indicate that the use of sugar and citric acid, even within the ruling's limitation, does change the chemical and physical characteristics (the basic character) of vodka. These characteristic changes mean that the vodka treated in accordance with this ruling does not conform to the standard of identity for vodka.

   Objective and rationale: The bureau believes that it may be necessary to reassess its position held in the revenue ruling and amend the standard of identity for vodka. A new class designation for vodka made with the addition of sugar and citric acid may also be considered.


8. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: To be determined.

9. Final date for comments: 12 April 1982

10. Texts available from: National enquiry point or address of other body: