

applications and complete certifications.

Growing concerns from industry stakeholders, increased congressional mandates to improve the certification process, and continual growth of the aviation industry over the next decade will continue to affect FAA resources available to conduct initial certifications. Comprehensive changes in the delegation program may be one way to increase operational performance to meet the increase in demand and lower the impact on FS resources.

Description of Request for Comments on Expansion

To address this issue, the FAA is considering additions to and expansion of the current delegation program to include tasks associated with issuing operator certificates under 14 CFR part 135, excluding 10 or more passenger operations.

For individual designees, this effort would require the FAA to initiate rulemaking to amend part 183 and add these new certification tasks. Part 183, subpart C, Kinds of Designations: Privileges, does not allow an individual designee to perform functions related to operations. However, for organizations, current provisions in part 183, subpart D, Organization Designation Authorization, specifically §§ 183.41, 183.59, and 183.65, already contain privileges related to operations and may provide an efficient method to expand the delegation program to part 135 certification tasks. Accordingly, the FAA could expand the ODA program without rulemaking through a revision to its policy and guidance to include the additional ODA authorized functions for operations.

The information obtained from this Notice will assist the FAA in determining potential interest from qualified private persons with operations, training, and/or maintenance experience applicable to air carrier and/or air operator certification activities, and application activities involving FAA roles.

The FAA wishes to hear from the public and any stakeholders that would consider participating in an FAA delegation program specific to Part 135 certification tasks. Through this Notice, the FAA seeks information regarding:

- Recommended certification tasks to be delegated (refer to FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 4, Section 1 through 8), available at https://drs.faa.gov/browse/ORDER_8900.1/doctypeDetails,

- Phase 1—Preapplication
- Phase 2—Formal Application (Safety Assurance System [SAS] Business Process Modules 1 and 2)

- Phase 3—Design Assessment (SAS Business Process Modules 2, 3, & 4)
- Phase 4—Performance Assessment (SAS Business Process Modules 2, 3, & 4)
- Phase 5—Administrative Functions
- Single-Pilot, Single Pilot-in-Command, and Basic Part 135 Operations
- Evaluate a Part 135 (Nine or Less) Certificate Holder/Applicant's Maintenance Requirements
 - Potential barriers to success,
 - Steps the FAA should consider to optimize implementation success, and
 - Commenters' business information including address, primary contact, FAA certificate(s) held, and experience with FAA operator certification tasks.

The following is intended to be an illustrative but not comprehensive list of possible certification tasks per FAA Order 8900.1 that are within the scope of this Notice.

- Review, evaluate, and accept certification application documents.
- Review, evaluate, and accept or approve operator manuals and written procedures, including operations and maintenance manuals.
- Review and evaluate personnel qualifications.
- Review and evaluate aircraft records.
- Evaluate applicant demonstration activities.
- Perform and evaluate aircraft configuration conformity.
- Review, evaluate, and approve aircraft inspection programs.
- Review, evaluate, and approve Minimum Equipment Lists (MEL).
- Issuance of operating certificates.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested parties to provide comments on this notice and the specific information requested in the preceding paragraph. Send your comments to an address listed under the **ADDRESSES** section. The subject line should state "Response to FAA's request for comment on possible delegation of 14 CFR part 135 certification tasks" and should include "Docket No. FAA-2024-2063" at the beginning of the comments. The FAA will consider all comments received on or before the closing date and will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring delay.

Scott A. Geddie,

Manager, AVS-64, Policy and Oversight Integration Section, AVS ODA Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

26 CFR Part 301

[REG-120137-19]

RIN 1545-BP66

Update of Regulations Regarding Payment of Tax by Commercially Acceptable Means; Hearing Cancellation

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Cancellation of a notification of public hearing.

SUMMARY: This document cancels a public hearing on the proposed rule that related to the payment of tax by commercially acceptable means and reflect changes to the law made by the Taxpayer First Act that would allow the IRS to directly accept payments of tax by credit or debit card, without having to connect taxpayers to third-party payment processors.

DATES: The public hearing scheduled for December 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) is cancelled.

ADDRESSES: Public comments submitted for the proposed rule (89 FR 54746, July 2, 2024) can be viewed electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching REG-120137-19.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Concerning the proposed regulations, Crystal Jackson-Kaloz, Office of Chief Counsel (Procedure and Administration) at (202) 317-5191 (not a toll-free number); or any other concerns contact: Publications and Regulations Section at (202) 317-6901 (not a toll-free number), or by email at publichearings@irs.gov (preferred).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notification of public hearing (REG-120137-19) that was published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, October 18, 2024 (89 FR 83825), announced that a public hearing held in person and by teleconference was scheduled for December 6, 2024, at 10 a.m. E.T. The subject of the public hearing is under 26 CFR part 301. The public comment period for these regulations expired on September 24, 2024. The notification of public hearing instructed those interested in testifying at the public hearing to submit a request to testify and an outline of the topics to be addressed by November 6, 2024. We did not receive any requests to testify at the Public Hearing. Therefore, the public

hearing scheduled for December 6, 2024, at 10 a.m. ET is cancelled.

Regina L. Johnson,

Federal Register Liaison, Publications and Regulations Section, Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure and Administration).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

27 CFR Part 9

[Docket No. TTB-2024-0007; Notice No. 235]

RIN 1513-AD08

Proposed Establishment of the Columbia Hills Viticultural Area

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) proposes to establish the 29,387-acre “Columbia Hills” American viticultural area (AVA) in Klickitat County, Washington. The proposed AVA is located entirely within the boundaries of the existing Columbia Valley AVA. TTB designates viticultural areas to allow vintners to better describe the origin of their wines and to allow consumers to better identify wines they may purchase. TTB invites comments on these proposals.

DATES: TTB must receive your comments on or before February 3, 2025.

ADDRESSES: You may electronically submit comments to TTB on this proposal, and view copies of this document, its supporting materials, and any comments TTB receives on it within Docket No. TTB-2024-0007 as posted on *Regulations.gov* (<https://www.regulations.gov>), the Federal e-rulemaking portal. Alternatively, you may submit comments via postal mail to the Director, Regulations and Ruling Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street NW, Box 12, Washington, DC 20005. Please see the “Public Participation” section of this document for further information on the comments requested on this proposal and on the submission, confidentiality, and public disclosure of comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen A. Thornton, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street

NW, Box 12, Washington, DC 20005; phone 202-453-1039, ext. 175.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on Viticultural Areas

TTB Authority

Section 105(e) of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (FAA Act), 27 U.S.C. 205(e), authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for the labeling of wine, distilled spirits, and malt beverages. The FAA Act provides that these regulations should, among other things, prohibit consumer deception and the use of misleading statements on labels and ensure that labels provide the consumer with adequate information as to the identity and quality of the product. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) administers the FAA Act provisions pursuant to section 1111(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as codified at 6 U.S.C. 531(d). In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated certain administrative and enforcement authorities to TTB through Treasury Order 120-01.

Part 4 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 4) authorizes TTB to establish definitive viticultural areas and regulate the use of their names as appellations of origin on wine labels and in wine advertisements. Part 9 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 9) sets forth standards for the preparation and submission of petitions for the establishment or modification of American viticultural areas (AVAs) and lists the approved AVAs.

Definition

Section 4.25(e)(1)(i) of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 4.25(e)(1)(i)) defines a viticultural area for American wine as a delimited grape-growing region having distinguishing features as described in part 9 of the regulations and, once approved, a name and a delineated boundary codified in part 9 of the regulations. These designations allow vintners and consumers to attribute a given quality, reputation, or other characteristic of a wine made from grapes grown in an area to the wine’s geographic origin. The establishment of AVAs allows vintners to describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers and helps consumers to identify wines they may purchase. Establishment of an AVA is neither an approval nor an endorsement by TTB of the wine produced in that area.

Requirements

Section 4.25(e)(2) of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 4.25(e)(2)) outlines the procedure for proposing an AVA

and allows any interested party to petition TTB to establish a grape-growing region as an AVA. Section 9.12 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 9.12) prescribes standards for petitions to establish or modify AVAs. Petitions to establish an AVA must include the following:

- Evidence that the area within the proposed AVA boundary is nationally or locally known by the AVA name specified in the petition;
- An explanation of the basis for defining the boundary of the proposed AVA;
- A narrative description of the features of the proposed AVA that affect viticulture, such as climate, geology, soils, physical features, and elevation, that make the proposed AVA distinctive and distinguish it from adjacent areas outside the proposed AVA boundary;
- The appropriate United States Geological Survey (USGS) map(s) showing the location of the proposed AVA, with the boundary of the proposed AVA clearly drawn thereon; and
- A detailed narrative description of the proposed AVA boundary based on USGS map markings.

If the proposed AVA is to be established within, or overlapping, an existing AVA, an explanation that both identifies the attributes of the proposed AVA that are consistent with the existing AVA and explains how the proposed AVA is sufficiently distinct from the existing AVA, and therefore appropriate for separate recognition.

Petition To Establish the Columbia Hills AVA

TTB received a petition from Dr. Kevin R. Pogue, a geology professor, proposing to establish the “Columbia Hills” AVA. Dr. Pogue submitted the petition on behalf of Robert Lorkowski, owner of Cascade Cliffs Vineyard and Winery, which is located within the boundaries of the proposed AVA. The proposed AVA is located in Klickitat County, Washington, and is entirely within the established Columbia Valley AVA (27 CFR 9.74). There are approximately 338 acres of vineyards, owned by 19 different property owners, within the proposed AVA, as well as four wineries. The distinguishing features of the proposed Columbia Hills AVA are its topography, soils, and climate.

Proposed Columbia Hills AVA

Name Evidence

The proposed AVA takes its name from the Columbia Hills, a 35-mile-long ridgeline that parallels the north side of