or type of distilled spirits to which added, and (ii) harmless coloring, flavoring, or blending materials such as caramel, straight malt or straight rye malt whiskies, fruit juices, sugar, infusion of oak chips when approved by the Administrator, or wine, which are not an essential component part of the particular distilled spirits to which added, but which are customarily employed therein in accordance with established trade usage, if such coloring, flavoring, or blending materials do not total more than 2 1/2 percent by volume of the finished product.

(3) “Harmless coloring, flavoring, and blending materials” shall not include (i) any material which would render the product to which it is added an imitation, or (ii) any material, other than caramel, infusion of oak chips, and sugar, in the case of Cognac brandy; or (iii) any material whatsoever in the case of neutral spirits or straight whisky, except that vodka may be treated with sugar in an amount not to exceed 2 grams per liter and a trace amount of citric acid.

(b) Extractions. The removal from any distilled spirits of any constituents to such an extent that the product does not possess the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to that class or type of distilled spirits alters the class and type thereof, and the product shall be appropriately redesignated. In addition, in the case of straight whisky the removal of more than 15 percent of the fixed acids, or volatile acids, or esters, or soluble solids, or higher alcohols, or more than 25 percent of the soluble color, shall be deemed to alter the class or type thereof.

(c) Exceptions. (1) This section shall not be construed as in any manner modifying the standards of identity for cordials and liqueurs, flavored brandy, flavored gin, flavored rum, flavored vodka, and flavored whisky or as authorizing any product which is defined in §5.22(j), Class 10, as an imitation to be otherwise designated.

(2) [Reserved]

§ 5.26 Formula requirements.

(a) General. An approved formula is required to blend, mix, purify, refine, compound, or treat spirits in a manner which results in a change of character, composition, class or type of the spirits. Form 5110.38 (27-B Supplemental) shall be filed in accordance with the instructions on the form and shall designate all ingredients and, if required, the process used. Any approved formula on Form 27-B Supplemental or Form 5110.38 shall remain in effect until revoked, superseded, or voluntarily surrendered. Any existing qualifying statements as to the rate of tax or the limited use of drawback flavors appearing on a Form 27-B Supplemental are obsolete.

(b) Change in formula. Any change in an approved formula shall require the filing of a new Form 5110.38. After a change in a formula is approved, the original formula shall be surrendered to the appropriate TTB officer.

§ 5.27 Formulas.

Formulas are required for distilled spirits operations which change the character, composition, class or type of spirits as follows:

(a) The compounding of spirits through the mixing of any coloring, flavoring, wine, or other material with distilled spirits;