

TTB Suspends Operations Amid Government Shutdown

Source: <https://www.winebusiness.com/>

by Kerana Todorov

December 27, 2018

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau cautioned the agency is suspending many of its operations as the partial government shutdown enters its sixth day Thursday. Wednesday was the first working day after the Christmas holiday.

TTB, a division of the US Treasury, is among the agencies affected as the US Congress and President Trump continue to lock horn over the funding of a \$5 billion US - Mexico border wall.

TTB's website at www.ttb.gov reads "TTB is Closed" due to the "lapse in government funding."

"TTB will suspend all non-excepted TTB operations, and no personnel will be available to respond to any inquiries, including emails, telephone calls, facsimiles, or other communications," according to ttb.gov. The website and operations "will fully resume when appropriations are enacted," according to the site. In the meantime, TTB employees have been ordered "NOT to report to work and they are prohibited by federal law from volunteering their services during a lapse in appropriations," according to ttb.gov.

"Once funding has been restored and the government shutdown is over, we will work to restore regular service as soon as possible."

The public can still file electronic payments and returns for federal excise taxes and operational reports at <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/> Wine companies can access TTB's eGovernment applications, including COLAs Online, Permits Online and Formulas Online. However, submissions will not be reviewed or approved during the shutdown, according to ttb.gov. TTB will not respond to queries posted on its website.

TTB closed during the last shutdown in January 2018.