

**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**Alcohol and Spirits**

**Agreement Between the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and the UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

Signed at Washington January 31, 2019

Entered into force December 31, 2020



NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966  
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“ . . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ON  
THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN DISTILLED SPIRITS/SPIRIT  
DRINKS**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the UK”) and the United States of America (“the USA”) (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

Have agreed as follows:

1. The USA agrees to continue to restrict, within its regulatory framework,<sup>1</sup> the use of the product designations:
  - a. “Scotch whisky”, to distilled spirits/spirit drinks products of Scotland, produced in compliance with applicable UK laws and regulations; and
  - b. “Irish whiskey”<sup>2</sup> to distilled spirits/spirit drinks products of the island of Ireland, produced in compliance with the laws and regulations applicable in the island of Ireland.

It is recognised that these products continue to be subject to all of the labelling requirements of the USA.

2. The UK agrees to continue to restrict, within its regulatory framework,<sup>3</sup> the use of the product designations:

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<sup>1</sup> The US regulatory framework for distilled spirits consists of 27 CFR part 5 or equivalent successor regulations.

<sup>2</sup> Also spelled as “Irish Whisky”.

<sup>3</sup> The UK regulatory framework for spirit drinks consists of:

- i. Regulations (EC) No 110/2008 and (EU) No 716/2013, as incorporated into UK law by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and secondary legislation made pursuant to that Act, or equivalent successor regulations;
- ii. the Spirit Drinks Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3206) or equivalent successor regulations; and
- iii. the Scotch Whisky Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2890) or equivalent successor regulations.

- a. "Tennessee whisky"<sup>4</sup>; and
- b. "Bourbon whisky"<sup>5</sup> and "Bourbon" as a designation for Bourbon whisky,

to distilled spirits/spirit drinks products of the USA produced in compliance with the laws and regulations of the USA.

It is recognised that these whiskies continue to be subject to all of the labelling requirements of the UK.

3. The USA and the UK agree to meet at a mutually convenient time in the future to discuss the possibilities of extending restrictive recognition to additional distilled spirits/spirit drinks products which either Party may propose for such consideration. This willingness to meet and consider such requests is without prejudice to the rights and rulemaking processes of either Party.
4. The Parties agree to consult, upon request, regarding the operation of this Agreement.
5. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of an exchange of written notifications between the Parties certifying that they have completed their respective internal requirements and procedures. In submitting a notification, the UK shall take account of its obligations arising in respect of any agreement between the European Union and the UK pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.
6. The Parties agree that all regulatory or administrative measures necessary to fulfil the obligations outlined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be implemented by the date this agreement enters into force in accordance with paragraph 5.
7. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by written notification to the other Party. This Agreement expires twelve months after the date of such notification.

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<sup>4</sup> Also spelled as "Tennessee whiskey".

<sup>5</sup> Also spelled as "Bourbon whiskey".

Done at Washington, DC on the 31st day of January in the year two thousand and nineteen, in duplicate.

**For the United States of America:**

**For the Government of the United  
Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland:**

Joseph P. Dear

Lin Darrach