



State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
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This Bulletin is issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”), Office of Cannabis Regulation (“OCR”) to provide guidance regarding the Hemp Industrial Program. This guidance is issued in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 2-26-1 *et seq.*, and the Rules and Regulations Related to the Industrial Hemp Program Administered by the Department of Business Regulation 230-RICR-80-10-1, as amended (the “Regulations”).

Industrial Hemp Frequently Asked Questions

October 2021

Hemp and CBD Licensing

1. Do you intend to grow hemp either indoors or outdoors?

You will need to apply for a Hemp Grower license.

2. Do you intend on processing hemp into a commodity or using a hemp-derived distillate/concentrate to produce a CBD product intended to be consumed by humans or animals?

You will need to apply for a Hemp Handler license.

3. Do you plan on distributing hemp-derived CBD products either in state or out of state to other licensed entities?

You will need to apply for a Hemp Derived Consumable CBD distributor license.

4. Do you plan on selling hemp-derived consumable CBD products directly to consumer within Rhode Island or is your business location in Rhode Island?

You will need to apply for a Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD retailer license.

5. Do I need a hem-derived consumable CBD retailer license to sell in Rhode Island?

If you plan on selling CBD products intended to be ingested by a human or animal directly to consumers in Rhode Island, you need to apply for a hemp-derived CBD retailer license.

6. Do you plan on transporting hemp-derived consumable CBD products between licensed entities?

You will need to apply for a hemp-derived consumable CBD distributor license.

Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD Products and Sales

7. What is a hemp-derived consumable CBD product?

This would be a CBD product made from hemp or hemp-derived distillate/concentrate in which the product is ingested orally by a person or animal.

- *This does not include products made from exempt cannabis plant material defined as the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant*

which is incapable of germination or products intended to be applied topically (lotions, hair products, bath bombs, etc.)

8. Is the 21+ sales restriction for consumable CBD products effective on October 10th or will there be a time period for retailers to come into compliance?

The Office of Cannabis Regulation is encouraging all retail establishments selling hemp-derived consumable CBD products to start putting into place best practices that ensure all hemp-derived CBD products are sold to individuals 21 years or older.

8. Do all testing, labeling, and licensing/registration requirements apply to products that are manufactured out of state, and the companies that manufacture them?

All hemp-derived consumable CBD products sold in Rhode Island must comply with all the rules and requirements of 230-RICR-80-10-1.

9. What is the “unique identifier” that must be included, and where is that obtained?

This would be the lot/batch that allows a product to be tracked back to the originating source if any complaints or public health and safety concerns are received by the Office of Cannabis Regulation or submitted directly to the licensee.

10. Can retailers sell through existing inventory of out of state products?

The Office of Cannabis Regulation will not require products that do not meet the current requirements to be pulled from shelves. Licensees should begin to make the necessary changes to their product lines and ask any clarifying questions they may have as an enforcement date will be announced within the next 6 months.

11. I have multiple retail locations that sell hemp-derived consumable CBD products. Does every location need a separate license?

Yes. Each location will need a separate license.