

DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH

Chapter 274: Rules for Growing Hemp

SUMMARY: These rules establish the requirements for becoming licensed to grow hemp, including fees, application and licensing processes, and procedures for monitoring the growth of hemp. The activities described in these rules may be considered a violation of federal law. Persons growing hemp may be subject to federal sanctions for what may otherwise be considered authorized conduct in the State of Maine, and compliance with these rules does not exempt licensees from possible federal prosecution. The Department is not responsible or liable for the actions of hemp growers under these rules.

I. Definitions

- A. **Certificate of analysis** – A report issued by a third-party ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, which indicates the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, and total tetrahydrocannabinol content of hemp on a dry weight basis.
- B. **Certified seed source** – A source of hemp seeds that are certified by a third party as producing hemp having a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. Certification may include a certificate of analysis from a third-party ISO 17025 accredited laboratory that indicates the parent plant seed source tested at or below 0.3% delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol on a dry weight basis.
- C. **Clone** – A hemp plant produced using any part of another hemp plant other than the seeds of that hemp plant.
- D. **Commercial purposes** –Offering seed, plants, plant parts, extracts, or other derivatives of the hemp plant into commerce or distribution to another person for that purpose.
- E. **Department** – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
- F. **Dry weight** – The weight of hemp plant material with no greater than 12% moisture content.

- G. **Growing area** – The land or surface area on which a licensee cultivates or plans to cultivate hemp.
- H. **Hemp** – The plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that is not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis including any measurement of uncertainty, or as otherwise defined in federal law. "Hemp" includes agricultural commodities and products derived from hemp and topical or ingestible consumer products, including food, food additives, and food products derived from hemp, which in their final forms contain a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% including any measurement of uncertainty or as otherwise defined in federal law. "Hemp" does not include marijuana for medical use pursuant to Title 22, chapter 558-C, or adult-use marijuana pursuant to Title 28-B, chapter 1.
- I. **Indoor facility** – A building, greenhouse, cold frame, hoop house, high tunnel, or other agricultural or horticultural method of enclosing the growing area.
- J. **Law enforcement agency** – A federal, state, or local agency responsible for maintaining public order and enforcing the law, particularly activities involving prevention, detection, and investigation of crime, and the apprehension of violators.
- K. **License** – The document issued to an individual after a successful application and review process, and following departmental receipt of a signed licensing agreement and submission of all licensing fees. The license allows the individual to possess, cultivate, grow and harvest hemp under Maine law.
- L. **Licensee** – An individual possessing a hemp license.
- M. **Licensing agreement** – A document signed by the licensee agreeing to abide by these rules and any other terms and conditions the Department deems necessary for enforcing the hemp law.
- N. **Licensing period** – The time in which a hemp license is valid. Licenses are issued for one year and expire on the 365th day after issuance.
- O. **Measurement of uncertainty** – The parameter, associated with the result of a measurement, that characterizes the dispersion of the values that could reasonably be attributed to the particular quantity subject to measurement.
- P. **Non-contiguous growing area** – A growing area on which a licensee grows or plans to grow hemp that is separated from other growing areas by more than 50 miles.

- Q. **Personal use** – When a person cultivates three or less mature hemp plants on less than one acre of land area or an indoor facility, and no hemp plant parts, hemp products or hemp-infused products derived from that hemp are ever allowed to enter into commerce.
- R. **Planting date** - Planting date for an outdoor licensing agreement is the date seed is sown outdoors or when a seedling or clone is field planted. Planting date for an indoor licensing agreement is the day seed, seedlings or clones are planted inside.
- S. **Sample** – Plant parts taken as representative of an individual plant or the combined total plants in the growing area.
- T. **Strain** – A group of plants or an individual plant that exhibit(s) distinctive observable physical characteristic(s) or has a distinct genetic composition.
- U. **Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** – Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the natural or synthetic equivalents of the substances contained in the plant, or in the resinous extractives of, *Cannabis sativa* L., or any synthetic substances, compounds, salts, or derivatives of the plant or chemicals and their isomers with similar chemical structure and pharmacological activity.
- V. **Variety** – A group of plants or an individual plant that exhibit(s) distinctive observable physical characteristic(s) or has a distinct genetic composition. Varieties are also known as cultivars.

II. Application Process

- A. Each applicant for a hemp license must submit a signed, complete, accurate, and legible application to the Department at least 30 days prior to her/his intended planting date.
- B. Applicants applying to renew a license must submit the same information and fees as applicants applying for a new license. In addition, applicants for renewal must include, on the application, the licensing numbers of any previous licenses held and year of issuance of those licenses.
- C. The applicant must provide:
 - 1. Name, address and other contact information;
 - 2. A detailed description of the land area or indoor facility to be used for the production of hemp including, but not limited to: a map, aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating production fields, or the floor plan of any indoor facilities, and showing the boundaries, dimensions, and size of the growing area;

3. A signed and dated statement that the applicant is the owner or legal occupant of the growing area or indoor facility to be used for cultivation of hemp, or a statement, signed by the owner of the growing area or indoor facility, consenting to that use;
4. The estimated planting date for the first crop.
5. Any other information the Department determines is necessary for enforcing the hemp law and these rules.

E. Each applicant for licensure shall submit a non-refundable application fee of \$100 with the application. Fees will not be refunded if a license is not granted.

F. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

G. False, inaccurate or misleading information provided on an application is grounds for license denial. Licenses may be denied to applicants who have previously had a hemp license revoked or have violated any of rules or statutes contained in CMR 01-001 Chapter 274 or MRS Title 7, Chapter 406-A.

III. Issuance of Licensing Agreement and License

A. Upon approval of an application, the applicant for a license must pay the license fee. License fees are \$500 plus \$50.00/acre of hemp to be planted outdoors and \$500.00 plus \$0.25 per square foot of growing area for hemp to be planted indoors, as reported on the application. Indoor facilities that will plant hemp on multiple levels within a structure shall calculate the square feet of growing area by adding the surface area of each tier together. The maximum license fee for an individual license agreement shall be \$20,000. Partial acreage or square footage should be rounded up to the next whole acre or square foot. License fees must be paid prior to license issuance. All license fees are non-refundable for any reason.

B. Licenses are only for the site or sites listed on the license. Non-contiguous growing areas require a separate license.

C. Each applicant must sign a licensing agreement. The failure of the licensee to comply with any term or condition of the licensing agreement shall be grounds for license revocation. By signing the licensing agreement, the licensee agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Within 14 days after planting hemp seeds, seedlings or clones, the licensee shall provide a listing of the varieties of seeds, seedlings or clones planted and a copy of a certificate of analysis which indicates the parent plants for the planted seed, seedlings or clones were found to contain no more than 0.3%

delta-9-THC on a dry weight basis.

2. Within 14 days of planting, the licensee shall provide a final legal description of the land area or indoor facility to be used for the production of hemp, and a map, aerial photograph or global positioning coordinates sufficient for locating each field, site or indoor facility where hemp is growing.
3. The licensee will allow the inspection and sampling of the hemp crop at any and all times that the Department deems necessary.
4. All records relating to production, planting, cultivation, and harvest of the hemp crop must be kept for a period of 3 years. The records must be made available to the Department upon request.
5. The Department may require reporting of any information or data associated with the planting, cultivation, and harvest of the hemp crop. The Department may also require reporting of the types of commodities or products derived from the harvested hemp and manufactured or sold within or outside the state. The licensee must submit all required reports by the due dates specified by the Department.
6. Information not deemed confidential by 7 MRSA § 2231, Section 9 provided to the Department and data collected by the Department through the hemp licensing process may be publicly disclosed and may be provided to law enforcement agencies without notifying the licensee.
7. Summary reports of information designated as confidential may be released to the public using aggregate data that does not reveal the location of a field, site, or indoor facility where hemp is grown, handled or stored.
8. Licensees must comply with any other terms and conditions the Department determines necessary for enforcing the hemp law and these rules.

D. All licenses shall be valid for 1 year. Licensees must re-apply to participate in the program each year. All outdoor grown hemp plant material must be planted and harvested within the licensing period. Indoor grown hemp must be planted within the license period, and harvesting can take place in a concurrent license period after license renewal that occurs within 30 days of the previous license expiration.

E. No hemp plants shall be included in other licensed marijuana production programs. No growing area may contain *Cannabis sativa* L. plants, which the licensee knows or has reason to know are of a variety that will produce a plant that, when tested, will contain more than 0.3% delta-9-THC on a dry weight basis.

G. Amendments to an existing license are limited to reduction in the number of acres or square footage planted within the original growing area and changes to contact information.

1. Any licensee who wishes to reduce the growing area on which the licensee will conduct hemp cultivation must submit to the Department, within 10 days of planting, an updated detailed description of the growing area including global positioning system location and map or a new floor plan for an indoor facility.
2. Additions to the original growing area must be done through a new license application and new licensing agreement.
3. Annual license fees are calculated based on the acreage reported in the application. No reimbursements of license fees shall result from a reduction in the actual number of acres or square footage of hemp planted during any licensing year.
4. Any changes related to the information required under II. Application Process section D.1 must be reported to the Department within 10 days of the change.
5. Licenses are non-transferrable.

IV. Sampling and Inspection

A. All licensed hemp growing areas are subject to sampling to verify that the delta-9-THC concentration of the hemp planted does not exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

B. The licensee will be notified prior to inspection and sampling. During inspection and sampling, the licensee or an authorized representative must allow complete and unrestricted access to all hemp plants within the licensed growing area.

C. If a hemp crop has not been inspected and sampled 25 days prior to harvest, the licensee must notify the Department of intent to harvest the hemp crop.

D. All hemp plants within a growing area may be sampled to ensure compliance with the hemp program.

1. Each sample will be divided into two parts. One part will be used for testing, and the other retained for retesting.
2. Quantitative laboratory determination of the delta-9-THC concentration on a dry weight basis will be performed.

3. A sample test result greater than 0.3% delta-9-THC shall be prima facie evidence that at least one *Cannabis sativa* L. plant or part of a plant in the licensed growing area contains THC above the allowable limit and the licensee is therefore not in compliance. Such a result shall be grounds to suspend or revoke the hemp license, subject to an opportunity for the licensee to request a hearing. Any request for a hearing must be made to the Department, in writing, within 10 days of the receipt of the sample test result. Sample test results may be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.
4. The licensee may request a retest of the retained portion of the sample. Any request for retesting must be made to the Department, in writing, within 10 days of the receipt of test results. The licensee must pay all analysis costs and shipping fees associated with the retest. If a retest is conducted, the results of the retest shall be final.
5. Crops testing above the allowable delta-9-THC limit must be destroyed by the grower according to instructions received from the Department.
6. Upon completion of testing, any remaining samples will be destroyed 10 days after receipt of test results.

V. Violations

A. Any violation of 7 M.R.S. 406-A § 2231, or of these rules, may be enforced as a civil violation and shall be grounds for license suspension or revocation. Such violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Failure to comply with any term or condition of the licensing agreement;
2. Failure to provide any information required or requested by the Department for purposes of enforcing the hemp law or these rules;
3. Providing false, misleading or incorrect information pertaining to the licensee's cultivation of hemp to the Department by any means, including but not limited to information provided in any application, report, record or inspection required or maintained for purposes of the hemp law or these rules;
4. Failure to submit a required report;
5. Failure to pay required fees;
6. Failure to destroy any crop following license revocation in accordance with Section V.B., below;

7. Growing *Cannabis sativa* L. that when tested is shown to have a delta-9-THC concentration greater than 0.3% on a dry weight basis; or,
8. Refusal or failure by a licensee or authorized representative to fully cooperate and assist with the inspection process.

B. Licenses that are revoked for any reason will result in crop destruction.

1. The licensee must destroy the crop in a manner approved by the Department within 10 days of notification of license revocation.
2. The licensee is responsible for paying all costs associated with crop destruction.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 M.R.S. Chapter 406-A §2231

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/05/2020

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