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To: Current Adult Use Cannabis Program Licensees
From: Director John Hudak, Office of Cannabis Policy
Date: May 29, 2025
Subject: Guidance to Clarify Existing Requirements for Different Adult Use Cannabis & Cannabis Product Sample Types

Background

This guidance is provided by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) to remind adult use licensees of the different requirements and processes applicable to consumer samples, employee samples, trade samples, and research and development (R&D) samples. This is in light of multiple, unrelated instances of samples being recorded incorrectly in the inventory tracking system.

Guidance

There are four (4) types of samples authorized in the Adult Use Cannabis Program, each with distinct differences in the amount allowable, who can receive them, and how they are tracked. This does not include samples for mandatory testing, which are separate and distinct from the samples outlined here.

- **Consumer Sample:** Provided by a cannabis store to a consumer who is at least 21 years of age for no remuneration.
- **Employee Sample:** Provided by a cannabis establishment to its employees for the purposes of employee education.
- **Trade Sample:** Provided by a cultivation or manufacturing facility to another Maine adult use cannabis licensee for business or marketing purposes only.
- **R&D Sample:** Provided to a testing facility by a cannabis establishment for testing for research and development purposes only.

The approved products, product quantities, distribution limits, inventory tracking system workflows, and other requirements vary by sample type. Adult use licensees can refer to the chart accompanying this guidance document for information regarding the specific requirements for each sample type. Licensees with questions about this guidance can contact OCP's Compliance Team at Compliance.OCP@maine.gov.

For instructions on how to properly record different sample types in Metrc, the State's inventory tracking system, licensees should refer to the Metrc Support bulletin entitled, "Sample Types in Metrc" distributed on May 29, 2025, and available [here](#).

Adult Use Sample Types

	Consumer Samples	Employee Samples	Trade Samples	Research & Development (R&D) Samples
Description	A sample provided by a cannabis store to a consumer who is at least 21 years of age for no remuneration	A sample provided by a cannabis establishment to its employees for the purposes of employee education	A sample provided by a cultivation or manufacturing facility to another licensee for business or marketing purposes only	A sample provided to a testing facility by a cannabis establishment for testing for research and development purposes only
Approved Product Categories	Bud/flower, vape cartridges, and edible cannabis products	All categories of cannabis and cannabis products	All categories of cannabis and cannabis products except seeds, seedlings, immature cannabis plants, mother plants, or mature cannabis plants	All categories of cannabis and cannabis products
Distribution Limits	No more than two (2) consumer samples per individual per day	No more than the approved maximum quantities per employee per 90-day period	No more than the approved maximum quantities from one licensee to another per calendar month period	N/A
Approved Maximum Quantities per Sample	Bud/flower: 0.5 g max Vapes: 0.5 g max Edibles: 10 mg max	Cannabis & cannabis concentrate: Combined 2.5 oz max, including no more than 10 g of cannabis concentrate Edibles: 200 mg max per package, which must be easily divisible into servings of 10 mg of THC or less	Cannabis: 2.5 oz max Cannabis concentrate: 10 g max Edibles: 5 g max, which must be easily divisible into servings of 10 mg of THC or less	N/A

Adult Use Sample Types

	Consumer Samples	Employee Samples	Trade Samples	Research & Development (R&D) Samples
Inventory Tracking	Refer to the “Sample Types in Metrc” bulletin for package adjustment information	Refer to the “Sample Types in Metrc” bulletin for package adjustment information	Refer to the “Sample Types in Metrc” bulletin for transport manifest information	Refer to the “Sample Types in Metrc” bulletin for package adjustment and transport manifest information
Testing Requirements	Must have passed all mandatory testing	Must have passed all mandatory testing	Must have passed all mandatory testing	N/A
Additional Considerations	<p>Must be pre-packaged into individual units prior to transfer to a cannabis store and labeled in accordance with 18-691 CMR ch. 30, sec. 5(1)(B)(14)</p> <p>May be provided by cannabis stores and in cannabis stores only (not via delivery, curbside pickup, or at specified events)</p> <p>May not be consumed on the facility’s premises and may not be given to a consumer who is visibly intoxicated</p>	May not be consumed on the facility’s premises	Each package must be flagged as a trade sample in Metrc prior to being added to a “Trade Sample Transfer” manifest	<p>May be submitted for testing for any analyte prior to mandatory testing</p> <p>Must be identified as an R&D sample before it is submitted for testing</p>