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To: Current and Prospective Adult Use Cannabis Program Licensees
From: Director John Hudak, Office of Cannabis Policy
Date: April 27, 2026
Subject: Guidance on Adult Use Labeling for Radiation and Ozone Treatment and Remediation

Background

The [Compliance Rules for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments](#), 18-691 C.M.R. ch. 30 §5 (3)(B)(3), provide that cannabis flower or trim packaged for retail sale as an inhalable cannabis product that has been treated or remediated using radiation or ozone be labeled as such. The Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) is aware that this labeling provision, which is only required for adult use licensees, has generated much confusion about both its rationale and its appropriateness.

P.L. 2023, ch. 679 (LD 40) directed OCP to amend its rules to include a remediation labeling requirement because of views asserted from members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee during legislative negotiations. However, members of that committee later expressed disagreement over the intent of LD 40 with regard to radiation and ozone treatment and remediation and committed to take up and clarify the issue in the 132nd Legislature. While the 132nd Legislature considered a bill, LD 1567, that would codify that labeling requirement, the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee unanimously voted that bill Ought Not to Pass on May 16, 2025. As such, and because of the reasoning below, OCP is suspending the remediation labeling requirement in rule as it relates to radiation and ozone.

Guidance

There is concern that cannabis treated with radiation or ozone to remove harmful microbial contaminants may pose a health risk to consumers. OCP's examination of the scientific record found abundant determinations that such remediation techniques are safe for products consumed by humans from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,¹ the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,² and the World Health Organization.³ Those remediation techniques are found to be effective in removing known harmful microbial contaminants from products ingested by

¹ <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-irradiation-what-you-need-know>

² https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/7/7/01-7706_article

³ <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/39463/9241561629-eng.pdf>

humans. Furthermore, there is significant evidence demonstrating that if not removed from cannabis, the presence of those microbes, yeasts, molds, and mildew is dangerous to the health of consumers.

Under federal food and drug laws, labeling of irradiated products—in the form of the Radura symbol—is typically required if and only if the final form of the product is remediated, leaving the vast number of products with remediated materials exempt from labeling.⁴ Additionally, not all products require remediation or treatment with radiation or ozone since they are already free of harmful levels of microbes, yeasts, molds, and mildew.

In light of the Legislature’s disposition of LD 1567 and upon consideration of ongoing concerns from some operators about the misleading impact of the labeling requirement, OCP has determined that requiring label disclosure of the use of irradiation or ozone treatment implies a consumer risk that is not scientifically supported and is potentially misleading in its implication about potential harm from exposure. For these reasons, **the Office is suspending the labeling requirement in 18-691 C.M.R. CH. 30 §5(3)(B)(3) as it relates to radiation and ozone. The labeling requirement related to carcinogenic gas treatment or remediation remains in effect.**

18-691 C.M.R. CH. 30 §5(3)(B)(3) If applicable, for cannabis flower or trim that has been treated or remediated, including without limitation treatment or remediation using radiation, ozone, or carcinogenic gases to mitigate mold, mildew, yeast, microbial, or other harmful contaminants, a statement in no less than 6-point font that reads “Contents have been treated with [treatment or remediation method].” For the purposes of this paragraph the use of ozone generators to clean a cultivation room or area that does not have any plants, flower or trim present does not constitute treatment or remediation of cannabis flower or trim;

Adult use cannabis that has been subject to remediation or ozone treatment must still pass the adult use program’s mandatory testing requirements.

Conclusion

OCP is suspending the section of rule 18-691 C.M.R. CH. 30 §5 (3)(B)(3) requiring labeling of adult use cannabis treated or remediated with radiation or ozone. Labeling for the use of carcinogenic gases for treatment or remediation remains in effect.

The Office recognizes and supports labeling that increases consumer transparency without being false or misleading. Licensees who opt not to treat or remediate their cannabis flower or trim with radiation or ozone may state this on their labels, if they so choose.

⁴ See generally: *Food Irradiation: What You Need to Know*, US FDA (3/5/2024), available at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-irradiation-what-you-need-know> (last accessed 4/24/2026).