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To: Current and Prospective AUCP Products Manufacturing and Cannabis Store Licensees  
From: Director John Hudak, Office of Cannabis Policy  
Date: October 30, 2023  
Subject: Universal Symbol on Pills and Capsules

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### Background

This guidance is provided by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) to Adult Use Cannabis Program (AUCP) licensees regarding the requirement that cannabis products manufactured into pressed pills or capsules be marked, stamped, or imprinted with the universal symbol.

The Adult Use Cannabis Program Rule 18-691 C.M.R., Chapter 1, Section 3.8.6. Edible Cannabis Product Safety, states:

B. Serving sizes must be standardized.

...

(7) Unless impracticable, each single standardized serving of cannabis shall be marked, stamped or otherwise imprinted with the Department-approved universal symbol directly on at least one side of the edible cannabis product in a manner to cause the universal symbol to be distinguishable and easily recognizable. The universal symbol marking shall:

(8) Be centered either horizontally or vertically on each standardized serving of cannabis; and

(9) If centered horizontally on a serving, the height and width of the universal symbol shall be of a size that is at least 25% of the serving's width, but not less than ¼ inch by ¼ inch; or

(10) If centered vertically on a serving, the height and width of the universal symbol shall be of a size that is at least 25% of the serving's height, but not less than ¼ inch by ¼ inch.

C. The following categories of edible cannabis products are considered to be per se practicable to mark with the universal symbol:

(1) Chocolate;

(2) Soft confections;

(3) Hard confections or lozenges;

(4) Consolidated baked goods (including without limitation cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and granola bars); and

(5) ***Pressed pills and capsules.*** [Emphasis added.]

OCP is aware that manufacturers are producing, and retailers are offering for sale, non-compliant pills and capsules that do not bear the appropriate Department-approved universal symbol.

### Guidance

OCP is directing all adult use licensees in possession of pills or capsules that do not bear the Department-approved universal symbol to cease sales of these non-compliant products immediately. Retailers should inspect any pills or capsules in their inventory or consult with the product manufacturer to determine whether they bear the Department-approved universal symbol.

Retailers in possession of non-compliant items may opt to destroy them or ask the manufacturer if they will accept product returns. All destruction or returns of items to manufacturers must be fully documented in the track and trace system.

Any licensee found to be conducting sales of, or otherwise transferring to consumers, non-compliant pills or capsules after the release of this guidance document will face administrative action to include possible fines, suspension, or revocation.

### Conclusion

OCP is committed to working to ensure the safety of consumers. Products containing cannabis in the form of pills or capsules that do not bear the Department-approved universal symbol are easily confused with non-THC products such as vitamins or supplements.

Cannabis products in the form of pills and capsules must bear the Department-approved universal symbol. Non-compliant products may not be sold to consumers, offered as trade samples, or provided to employees.

While there may be some compliant pills or capsules, OCP has not identified any to date. Questions regarding whether an item complies can be sent to [Compliance.OCP@maine.gov](mailto:Compliance.OCP@maine.gov).