



The following guidance is provided by the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) to assist cannabis licensees comply with State laws and regulations governing the cannabis industry. This document is not legal advice. It is meant to highlight regulatory changes for licensees. Please consult an attorney if you have any questions regarding the legal requirements that apply.

Effective January 1, 2024, all Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) licensed growers, processors, and dispensaries are required to meet the packaging and labeling requirements listed in COMAR 14.17.18. On September 14, 2026, the MCA finalized amendments to COMAR 14.17.18 Finished Product Packaging. The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify packaging and labeling requirements.

UPDATED! Minimum Packaging Requirements

See COMAR [14.17.18.02B](#) and MD Code, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, § 36-203.1.

All cannabis product packaging must be:

1. Tamper-evident;
 - a. Soft sided packaging must be sealed at the opening in a way that indicates if the container has been opened or tampered with. Once a package has been opened it must remain obvious that the package has previously been opened. Any soft sided package shall be four mil or greater in thickness.
 - b. Any rigid container must have a tamper evident seal. Alternatively, the lid or enclosure can have an adhesive band or seal that, once opened, must remain obvious that the package has previously been opened.
2. Child Resistant; and
3. Opaque.

Any package that contains multiple servings must be resealable.

UPDATED! Prohibited Packaging

See COMAR [14.17.18.07](#) and MD Code, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, § 36-203.1.

Cannabis product packaging may not target or be designed to appeal to any individual younger than 21 years old. MCA regulations explicitly prohibit any aspects that may appeal to minors, including but not limited to:

- Resemblance to the trademarked, characteristic, or product-specialized packaging of any commercially available candy, snack, baked good or beverage, such as "Zkittles" or "Girl Scout Cookies,";
- Images of food, candy, baked goods, cereal, fruit, beverages, or the words "candy" or "candies";
- Images, graphics, font styles, features, or likeness to images, graphics, font styles, or features that are popularly used to advertise to children, such as cartoons, animals, neon colors, celebrities, mascots, or phrases;
- Graphics that include the attribution of:
 - Human characteristics to animals, plants, or other objects, or the similar use of anthropomorphic technique, such as wearing human clothing;

- Animal, plant, or other object characteristics to humans; or
 - Unnatural or extra-human abilities or characteristics to humans, plants, animals, or other objects, such as superheroes or magic;
- Sensory effects, including but not limited to texture, scent, or sound, such as “scratch-n-sniff” effects or motion-activated sound effects.

Other elements prohibited from inclusion in cannabis product packaging are:

- Any statement, artwork, or design that could reasonably mislead any person to believe that the package contains anything other than a finished cannabis product;
- Any seal, flag, crest, coat of arms, or other insignia that could reasonably mislead any person to believe that the product has been endorsed, manufactured, or used by any State, county or municipality or any agency thereof;
- A depiction of any form of consumption of cannabis or cannabis products;
- A depiction of overconsumption or intoxicating effects of cannabis or cannabis products;
- [Medical or therapeutic claims](#); and
- Any false or misleading statement, including those related to characteristic anticipated effects.

Labels, marketing layers, images, graphics, or any other aspect of the product package are prohibited from obscuring any warnings, statements, or information required by the MCA.

Minimum Labeling

See COMAR [14.17.18.03](#) and MD Code, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, § 36-203.1.

All label text must be printed in English, no smaller than six-point font or 1/12 an inch. Unless specifically noted, labels must be printed directly on, or on a label or sticker affixed directly to the marketing layer.

All cannabis products for retail sale must be labeled with the following:

- Product Information
 - The following details are required on the label, when applicable to the product:
 - Net weight of the cannabis or cannabis product
 - Finished product lot number
 - Name of the licensee that packaged the product
 - Name and phone number of the licensee that manufactured the product
 - A list of any solvents used to produce the product
 - The date that product was harvested, packaged, or produced
 - Expiration or best-used-by date
 - An itemization, including weight, of all cannabinoid and terpene ingredients—may be printed on an inner layer, accessible via QR code, or another type of web link
 - A list of all major allergens contained in or used to manufacture the cannabis finished product, specifically milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat and soybeans—may be printed on an inner layer, or accessible via QR code, or another type of web link

- A list of all noncannabis ingredients—may be printed on an inner layer, or accessible via QR code, or another type of web link
- A certificate of analysis completed by a registered independent testing laboratory, available on the package through a link or QR code
- The universal symbol, appearing as follows:
 - On the front or most predominantly displayed area of the package;
 - In an area no smaller than ½ inch by ½ inch;
 - In the form provided by the Administration and may not be modified, recreated, stylized, stretched, or otherwise distorted; and
 - On a background where the symbol is clearly distinguishable and identifiable.
- The following warning statements:
 - "The contents may only be lawfully consumed by a consumer 21 years old or older, or a registered medical cannabis patient."
 - "Consumption of cannabis may impair your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. Please use extreme caution."
 - "There may be health risks associated with cannabis use, especially if pregnant or breastfeeding."
 - "This package contains cannabis. Keep out of reach of children and animals."
- The Maryland Poison Center emergency telephone number

Manual Approval

Some cannabis products require manual approval by MCA prior to entering the market.

These products include edible products, liquids, tinctures, capsules, sublingual pouches, and other exempt products.

When submitting a product for manual approval, licensees may submit digital renderings of products. All products must meet all packaging and labeling requirements.

Medical Cannabis Product Packaging and Labeling

Medical cannabis products are subject to the same regulations related to packaging and labeling as adult-use cannabis products.

In addition to these regulations, medical cannabis products must:

- Maintain space on the packaging for a licensed dispensary to attach a personalized label for the qualifying patient; and
- Bear a clear warning that it is illegal for any person to possess or consume the contents of the package unless they are the qualifying patient or to transfer the package or contents to any person other than a transfer by a caregiver to a qualifying patient.

Medical cannabis product warnings may be applied to a sticker or label applied at point of sale. For products that may be sold to either qualifying patients or adult-use consumers (i.e. concentrated cannabis products with a total weight of 1 gram or less), the medical cannabis product warning statements do not need to be applied to products sold to adult-use consumers. See COMAR [14.17.18.04](#).

Edible Cannabis Product Packaging

Edible cannabis products are subject to the same regulations related to packaging and labeling as non-edible cannabis products.

In addition to these regulations, edible cannabis product packaging must include:

- Milligrams per single serving of total THC, total CBD, and any other marketed cannabinoid;
- Milligrams per package of total THC, total CBD, and any other marketed cannabinoid;
- The number of servings per package and, if applicable, the recommended size of a serving;
- A nutritional fact panel consistent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Standards, which may be printed on an inner layer of the label or made available through a link or QR code;
- A list of all active and inactive ingredients in descending order of predominance by weight in the cannabis product; and
- A warning label that states, "Effects of this product may be delayed by 4 or more hours."

Edible cannabis products containing multiple servings must:

- Be resealable;
- Contain no more than 10 mgs/serving or 100 mgs/package;
- Clearly indicate the size of a serving; and
- If applicable, include a measuring device appropriate for the product, such as a dropper or measuring spoon.

See COMAR [14.17.18.05](#).

UPDATED! Other Product-Specific Requirements

Some cannabis products have additional packaging and labeling requirements. These requirements can be found in COMAR:

- Sublingual Pouches - See COMAR [14.17.18.08](#)
- Cannabis Seeds and Plants - See COMAR [14.17.18.06](#)
- Products Intended for Topical Application - See [COMAR 14.17.18.03C\(2\)](#)

If you have questions regarding the manual product approval process, please contact mca.productapprovals@maryland.gov.