



Hemp Acquisition

Office of Laboratory Services

September 2026

Agenda

1. Review of Maryland Hemp Regulations
2. Review of Federal Hemp Regulations
3. Review the Hemp Acquisition Form Submission process





Maryland Hemp Regulations

Is hemp allowed in the licensed market?

YES

Is hemp allowed in the licensed market?

According to COMAR 14.17.11.03B(2)

(a) A processor may acquire hemp, as defined in Agriculture Article, §14-101, Annotated Code of Maryland, from a person licensed to produce hemp by:

- (i) The Maryland Department of Agriculture;
- (ii) The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; or
- (iii) An agency of another state pursuant to a hemp production plan that has been approved by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(b) Any product derived from hemp shall comply with:

- (i) The testing standards established in COMAR 14.17.08 and the Technical Authority;
- (ii) The relevant manufacturing standards established in this chapter and COMAR 14.17.13; and
- (iii) The relevant packaging and labeling standards established in COMAR 14.17.18.

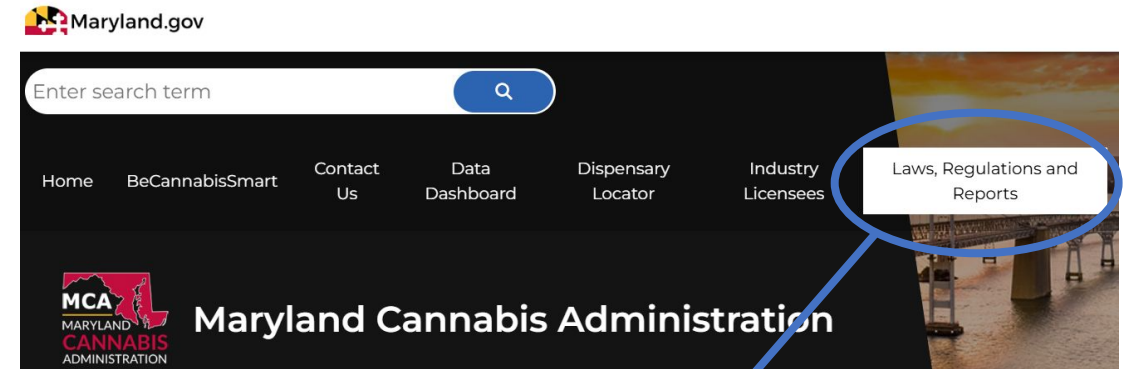
(c) A licensed processor shall:

(i) After placing an order to acquire hemp and before accepting delivery of hemp, submit a request for Administration approval to acquire hemp in the manner specified by the Administration.

Dispensaries may sell hemp derived products that meet the requirements of COMAR 14.17.11.03B

Current guidance found on the website under the Laws, Regulations and Reports section allows for hemp products to be sold in dispensaries as long as the product has been manufactured, produced and tested in accordance to Maryland regulations.

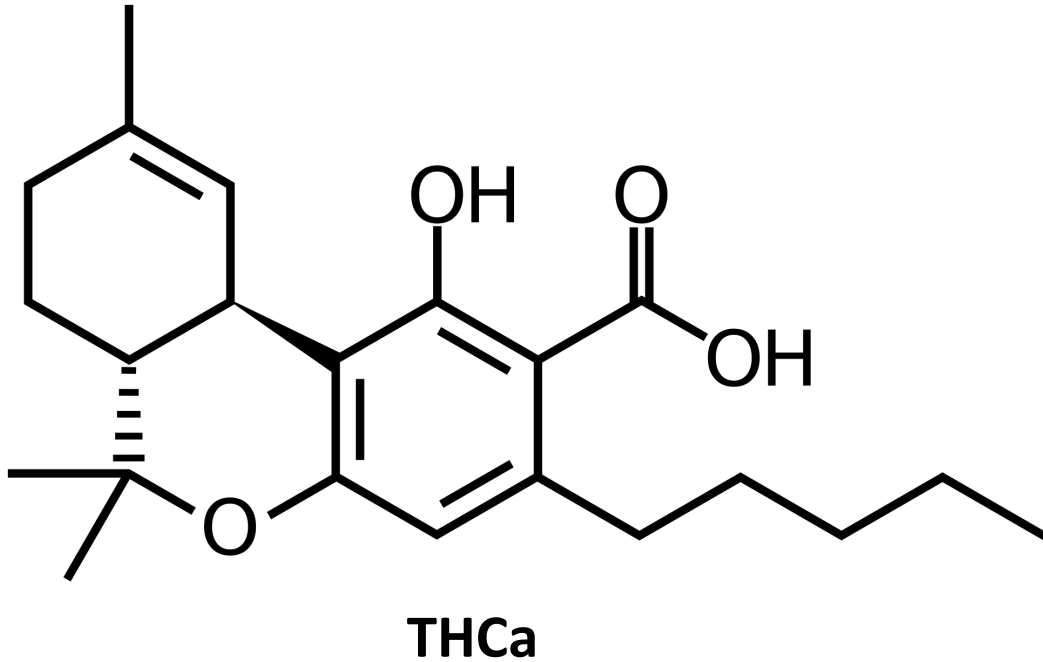
Products containing less than 0.5mg of THC/serving or 2.5mg THC/package can be sold in the public area of the dispensary as long as it is not intended from human ingestion or inhalation.



Additional guidance by license type:

- Growers
 - Canopy Guidance ^{NEW}
- Processors
- Dispensaries
- Micro Dispensaries
- Advertising

Restriction on imported hemp products:



The MCA does not authorize the importation of THCa for any source outside of the state of Maryland.

This decision is based on the DEA communication to Porter Wright that asserts that THCa does not satisfy the definition of hemp under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).



Federal Regulations



Federal Hemp Legalization timeline

2014

2014 Farm Bill

Established pilot programs for hemp research through higher education and state departments of agriculture, defining hemp distinctly from marijuana.

2018

2018 Farm Bill

Removed hemp (cannabis with <0.3% Delta-9 THC) from the Controlled Substances Act, legalizing nationwide commercial production.

Nov 12, 2025

FY 2026 Appropriations Act

Updated Agricultural Marketing Act definitions to include THCa in 0.3% THC limit and separated cannabinoid hemp from industrial hemp.

Removed cannabinoids that are not produced naturally by the plant or are synthesized outside of the plant from the Federal definition of hemp effective November 12, 2026.

Sep 2, 2026

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act

Extends the effective date for the ban of synthesized natural cannabinoids to December 11th.

- **November 12th:** Ban on non-naturally occurring cannabinoids (HHC, THC-O)
- **December 11th:** Ban on synthesized natural cannabinoids (CBG, CBN)

Note: Congress is actively working on legislation that may change the enforcement of the December 11th ban.

How does the Federal changes affect hemp acquisition in Maryland?

Licensees will no longer be able to obtain hemp and hemp-derived cannabinoid isolates from out of state sources.

Licensees will need to identify hemp farmers and producers registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to procure hemp and hemp-derived isolates.





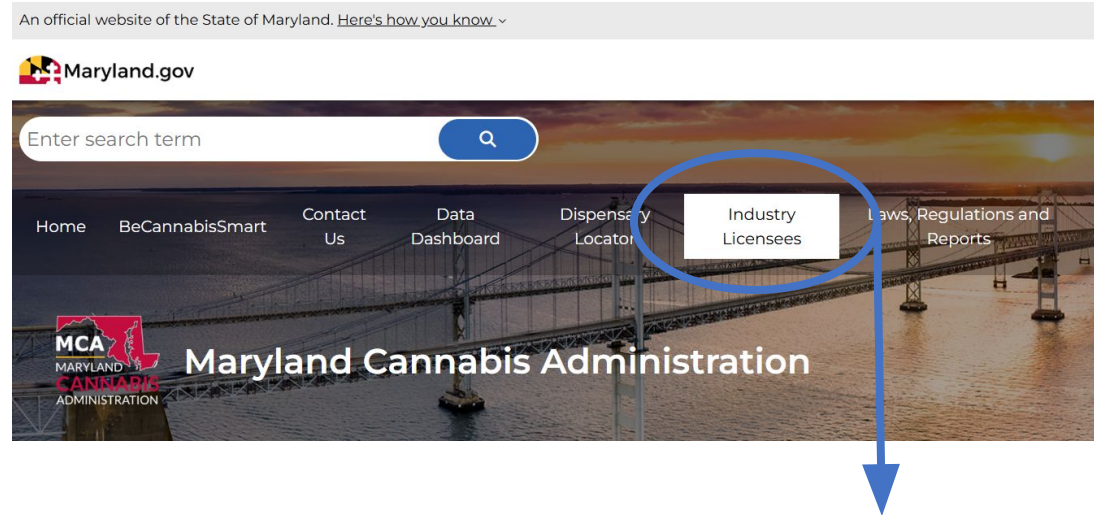
Hemp Acquisition Form Submission

How does a licensee bring hemp into the regulated market?

Complete the Hemp Acquisition Form.

Access the form, follow the steps below:

- Type <https://cannabis.maryland.gov> in the browser
- Click “Industry Licensees”
- Scroll to “Hemp Acquisition Form”
- Read the verbiage then click “Hemp Acquisition Form”



-Hemp Acquisition Form

- A licensed processor must submit this form to the MCA, after placing an order to acquire hemp and before accepting delivery of the hemp.
- Information regarding the acquisition of hemp can be found here
- Questions regarding the acquisition of hemp may be directed to mca.labs@maryland.gov

According to COMAR 14.17.11.03B(2)

A licensed processor shall:

- (i) After placing an order to acquire hemp and before accepting delivery of hemp, submit a request for Administration approval to acquire hemp in the manner specified by the Administration.

Items to prepare for the Hemp Acquisition form submission

Prior to submitting the form, ensure the following:

Review

- Applicable COMAR regulations and MCA guidance to ensure compliance with your hemp acquisition

Business Name

- The business name and/or DBA name listed on the Hemp Acquisition Form, the invoice and name in Metrc all match.

MCA License Number

- The license number listed on the Hemp Acquisition Form must be the current license number and match Metrc records.

Person Submitting Form

- The person submitting the form must be listed, active, and not expired in Metrc.

Hemp Producer

- Hemp producer business name (or DBA), address, and hemp license number (if present) listed on the invoice matches the provided registration from State's Department of Agriculture, USDA, or other issuing body.

Invoice

- The invoice provided is more than \$0 (unless for R&D), MCA licensee address (hemp recipient) listed on the invoice matches MCA licensee address in Metrc and the invoice is issued within the registration period. A sales order, quote or other are not acceptable.

Hemp Acquisition Form Submission- Licensee Information

Licensee Information

License Name

Legal Name

Trade Name (D/B/A) (Put N/A if Not Applicable)

Must match the name listed on the invoice.

MCA License # *

License number must be current.

Contact Email Address (confirmation email sent to this address) *

example@domain.com

Contact email must be for an active registered agent.

Hemp Acquisition Form Submission- Hemp Producer Information

Hemp Producer Information

Name of Hemp Producer *

State where Hemp Producer is Located *

Please upload an invoice showing that the licensee purchased the hemp from the hemp producer identified above. *

Drag and drop files onto this window to upload

- OR -

Select Files to Upload

Please upload a copy of the hemp producer's license to produce hemp. (NOTE: The license must be issued by the USDA, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, or an agency of another state that administers a hemp production program that has been approved by the USDA) *

Drag and drop files onto this window to upload

- OR -

Select Files to Upload

- Hemp producer business name (or DBA), address on the invoice must match the provided registration from the State's Department of Agriculture, USDA, or other issuing body.
- An invoice must be more than \$0. The only exception is if the product is for R&D.
- The invoice must be issued within the valid registration period or the hemp producer.
- MCA does not accept sales order or quotes.

Hemp Acquisition Form Submission- Sign Here

Sign Here

This individual must be an active registered agent with the MCA.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

☒ Draw ☐ Type

Clear Signature

☐ I hereby confirm the following: I am a representative of the named Licensee and I am authorized to submit this Hemp Acquisition Form to the Maryland Cannabis Administration. The information provided in this form has been verified.

Approval and Rejection

Within 30 business days, MCA will review the submission for compliance.

Hello,

This hemp acquisition is **approved**. Please keep a copy for your records.

Thank you,



Office of Laboratory Services

849 International Drive
Linthicum, MD 21090
mca.labs@maryland.gov
cannabis.maryland.gov

An approved submission will receive this email to the address listed on the form.

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Hello,

This Hemp Acquisition submission has been rejected for the following reason:

- Invoice not provided

Please resubmit the Hemp Acquisition with all required documentation.

Thank you,



Office of Laboratory Services

849 International Drive
Linthicum, MD 21090
mca.labs@maryland.gov
cannabis.maryland.gov

A rejected submission will receive an email including the rejection reason. A new hemp acquisition form must be submitted for approval after the changes have been made.

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Contact at MCA for hemp acquisition questions

mca.labs@maryland.gov



Questions or comments?

