



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
Office of Cannabis Regulation
560 Jefferson Blvd. Ste. 204
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Guidance for Hemp Distributor Licensees

Issued pursuant to 230-RICR-80-10-1
Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program
Effective Date: August 14th, 2024

On August 14th, 2024, updates to Rhode Island's Industrial Hemp Program regulations came into effect and, as a result, revised the privileges, requirements, and prohibitions for all hemp licensees.

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide an overview of these updated conditions for current and future licensees. This is *not* a substitution for licensees thoroughly reviewing and understanding the regulations which are available at [here](#).

Hemp Distributor Licensees must:

- Apply for and receive a license issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation in the [State Licensing Portal](#) prior to distributing hemp for commercial purposes;
- Apply for and receive Registry Identification Cards for all applicable individuals prior to beginning operations;
- Maintain testing records for all hemp and hemp products evidencing they are at or under the Acceptable Hemp THC Level of 1 mg of Total THC per serving, 5 mg of Total THC per package, and no more than 0.3% Total THC on a dry weight basis;
- Store all edible hemp products in a manner consistent with applicable state and local food safety regulations;
- Submit an annual report of licensed activities on a form prescribed by DBR;
- Provide samples of hemp products to DBR for testing, upon request; and
- Implement inventory management, emergency, recall, and record keeping protocols;

Hemp Distributor Licensees may:

- Also hold a Hemp Grower, Handler, and/or Retailer License;
- Purchase hemp products from licensed Rhode Island Hemp Growers and Handlers;
- Sell products to Hemp Handlers, Growers, Distributors, and Retailers in Rhode Island, or their licensed equivalents in other states; and
- Receive hemp and hemp products from sources outside of Rhode Island provided those products comply with all applicable regulations.

Hemp Distributor Licensees may not:

- Cultivate, extract, concentrate, or otherwise grow or process hemp plants without holding a Hemp Grower or Handler license, respectively;
- Acquire or distribute any hemp-derived consumable product over the Acceptable Hemp THC Level;
- Distribute batch of hemp or hemp product that has not undergone testing as required by the State of Rhode Island; or
- Sell hemp products directly to consumers without applying for, and receiving, a Retailer license.