



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

Guidance for Hemp Grower 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 Grower Licensees must:

- Apply for and receive a license issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation in the [State Licensing Portal](#) prior to cultivating hemp for commercial purposes;
- Apply for and receive Registry Identification Cards for all applicable individuals prior to beginning operations;
- Sample and test all lots, except those subject to performance-based testing, of hemp within thirty (30) days of the expected harvest date;
- Report to DBR via email DBR.HempCompliance@dbr.ri.gov and destroy hemp crops that test over 0.3% Total THC;
- Track lots of hemp crops from seed to sale;
- Develop and implement inventory management, emergency, recall, and record keeping protocols;
- Provide annual reports to the Department of Business Regulation on operations; and
- Provide their acreage, state license number, and any other required information to the Farm Service Agency.

Hemp Grower Licensees may:

- Also hold a Hemp Handler License;
- Apply for performance-based sampling to reduce testing frequency on certain crop types;
- Sell crops, including raw hemp flower, to Hemp Growers, Handlers, and Distributors in Rhode Island, or their licensed equivalents in other states; and
- Receive seeds or industrial hemp from sources outside of Rhode Island provided those products comply with all applicable regulations.

Hemp Growers Licensees may not:

- Harvest or transfer a lot of hemp until sampling and testing has occurred;
- Cultivate any strain of hemp that might be reasonably believed to contain more than 0.3% Total THC;
- Extract, concentrate, or otherwise process hemp plants or produce Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD Products, including pre-rolls, unless also holding a Handler license; or
- Sell hemp, including but not limited to plants directly to consumers.