



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

Guidance for Hemp Handler Licensees

Issued pursuant to 230-RICR-80-10-1

Rhode Island Industrial Hemp Program

Updated: March 14th, 2025

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 [here](#).

Hemp Handler Licensees must:

- Apply for and receive a license issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation in the [State Licensing Portal](#) prior to handling hemp for commercial purposes;
- Apply for and receive Registry Identification Cards for all applicable individuals prior to beginning operations;
- Sample and test all batches of hemp and hemp products;
- Report to DBR via [email](#) and destroy product batches that test above the Acceptable Hemp THC Level of:
 - o 1 mg of Total THC per serving,
 - o 5 mg of Total THC per package (100mg for tinctures), and
 - o No more than 1% Total THC on a dry weight basis if dried flower;
- Submit an annual report of licensed activities on a form prescribed by DBR;
- Implement inventory management, emergency, recall, and record keeping protocols; and
- Comply with all applicable food processing and safety regulations.

Hemp Handler Licensees may:

- Also hold a Hemp Grower License;
- Extract, concentrate, or otherwise process hemp plants or produce Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD Products, including pre-rolls, using approved methods;
- Sell products to Hemp Handlers, Growers, 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 Handler Licensees may not:

- Extract, concentrate, or otherwise process hemp plants with hydrocarbon-based solvents;
- Convert any cannabinoid into any other cannabinoid, including through decarboxylation, without an approved variance issued by DBR;
- Produce any hemp-derived consumable product over the Acceptable Hemp THC Level;
- Transfer a batch of hemp product until sampling and testing has occurred;
- Cultivate any hemp plants without also holding a Hemp Grower License; or

- Sell hemp products directly to Retailers or consumers without applying for, and receiving, a Distributor or Retailer license respectively.