



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PLANT SERVICES DIVISION - INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM

1688 W. ADAMS ST.

PHOENIX, AZ 85007

602-542-0955 - azhemp@azda.gov

INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM FAQ's

Q: What is the definition of industrial hemp?

A: Industrial hemp is defined as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than three-tenths percent (0.3%) on a dry-weight basis. (A.R.S. § 3-311)

Q: I hear a lot about "CBD", what is "CBD"?

A: "CBD" or Cannabidiol, is a chemical compound that can be extracted from an industrial hemp plant (primarily from the floral material). "CBD" compounds are not narcotic or included in the Controlled Substances Act and is different from the "THC" that is found in marijuana.

Q: Can I grow industrial hemp for personal use?

A: No, a person will only be allowed to grow and/or process industrial hemp for commercial or research purposes.

Q: Will the Department limit the number of licenses issued, or will there be any size requirements for the area to be planted?

A: No, There will be no limitation on the number of licenses issued or a size requirement to be licensed.

Q: What types of licenses will be available?

A: There will be five types of licenses that can be applied for, individually or as a combination of two or more. Grower, Harvester, Transporter, Processor, and Nursery.

Q: Who will be able to apply for an industrial hemp license?

A: Any U.S. citizen or legal alien who meets the following requirements and can provide:

- Accurately completes a Department approved application (pending development).
- Provides a copy of the person's Level I Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Fingerprint Division of the AZ Dept. of Public Safety. No other forms of background check documents are approved.
- Submits complete payment for the Program licensing fee on or after May 31, 2019.

Q: How can I apply for a license?

A: Visit <https://agriculture.az.gov/plantsproduce/industrial-hemp-program> and download your application under the "Industrial Hemp Applications and Forms" page.

Q: How can I pay for my license?

A: After an application is approved, the Department will only accept payments in the form of check, cashier's check, or money order. No cash or credit card payments will be accepted.

Q: Will I need a license issued by the Department?

A: Possibly, please refer to the definitions in statute ([A.R.S. § 3-311](#)) of a Grower, Harvester, Transporter, and Processor to see if your operation would fit in any of these categories.

Q: I have questions about getting a Level I Fingerprint Clearance Card, who do I contact?

A: All questions regarding the fingerprint clearance cards must go through the Application Clearance Card Team (ACCT) of the Arizona Dept. of Public Safety. Also, do not deliver fingerprint clearance card applications to the Dept. of Agriculture. Call 602-223-2279 or visit: www.azdps.gov/services/public/fingerprint



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Q: When I submit my application, will I be issued a license right-away?

A: No, the Department will need to validate eligibility, accuracy of the contents of the application, and ensure the licensing payment clears. This may take a few days, and up to fourteen (14) business days based on workload and completeness of the application received.

Q: Can I go ahead and purchase seed or propagative materials before I'm issued a license?

A: A person may not possess seed or propagative materials for planting in the State, under this program, unless they are licensed by the Department.

Q: Can I get a fee exemption to start trials or conduct research on industrial hemp?

A: Only if it is for non-profit and the criteria under [A.A.C. R3-4-1005](#) is met.

Q: What zoning/distance requirements will I have to comply with?

A: It will be the responsibility of the applicant to determine if there are any local zoning, codes or ordinance restrictions. Cross-pollination issues are the responsibility of the applicant/licensee to be aware of to protect their crop.

Q: What effect does the 2018 farm bill have on Arizona's Industrial Hemp Program?

A: The 2018 Farm bill changes the Controlled Substances Act and removes industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana and it allows for the commercialization of industrial hemp. It will still require a person to obtain a license from the Department and follow compliance guidelines for producing and processing industrial hemp.

Q: Will I be able to manufacture "CBD" products from industrial hemp?

A: Yes, however the Program oversight only extends from the growth and cultivation of industrial hemp, up to the point of processing. For licensed processors, the Program will focus on ensuring they receive raw material that is below 0.3% THC. If there are food handling laws, laws and regulations under the oversight of the Food and Drug Administration, or other laws related to industrial hemp of another agency, then those issues are out of the Department's scope of regulatory oversight.

Q: I have a license to grow hemp, now what?

A: It is the grower's responsibility to find seed or planting material to produce a crop. Growers must submit pre-planting reports prior to planting; planting reports within 7 days of planting, and notify the Department no less than 14 Days prior to harvest to schedule an inspection and sample collection.

Q: My crop was sampled by the Department, can I harvest my crop?

A. Yes, you can harvest your crop, but you cannot send it to a processor until you are provided a Crop Certificate, issued by the Department.

Q: Who do I contact about Lab Certification for testing the THC levels in Hemp?

A. Please contact the State Agricultural Lab at 602-744-4904 for lab certification questions.

Q: I have more questions, who can I contact?

A: Please email: azhemp@azda.gov or call (602) 542-0955