

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When can I apply for a state cannabis cultivation license?

- A.** Applications will be available for all California state cannabis cultivation licenses—both medicinal and adult-use (recreational)—on January 1, 2018.

Q. How are you developing the cannabis cultivation licensing regulations?

- A.** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is required to follow the statutory requirements found in the California Administrative Procedure Act. CDFA works with stakeholders, the public, and licensing authorities to develop the standards and regulations necessary to successfully implement a statewide cannabis cultivation regulatory structure in California.

CDFA intends to use the emergency rulemaking process in 2017 for developing the state's combined medicinal and adult-use cannabis cultivation licensing regulations. For a detailed description of this process, visit the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) at oal.ca.gov; click on the "Rulemaking Process" link.

Q. How do I apply for a cannabis cultivation license?

- A.** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is not issuing any cultivation licenses until January 1, 2018. However, in preparation for state licensure, CDFA recommends staying up to date on city and/or county government requirements for local cannabis cultivation licenses and permits.

Q. How can I receive updates on the status of California's cultivation licensing regulations?

- A.** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) regularly posts information on its CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing website and via these three social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Email alerts are another way to get information. For links to these resources, please go to: cannabis.cdca.ca.gov

Q. What types of cannabis cultivation licenses will be offered in California?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will issue 17 types of cannabis cultivation licenses:

Specialty Cottage Outdoor

An outdoor cultivation site with up to 25 mature plants

Specialty Cottage Indoor

An indoor cultivation site with up to 500 square feet or less of total canopy

Specialty Cottage Mixed-Light

A mixed-light cultivation site with 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy

Specialty Outdoor

An outdoor cultivation site with 5,000 square feet or less of total canopy—or up to 50 mature plants on noncontiguous plots

Specialty Indoor

An indoor cultivation site of between 501 and 5,000 square feet of total canopy

Specialty Mixed-Light

A mixed-light cultivation site of between 2,501 and 5,000 square feet of total canopy

Small Outdoor

An outdoor cultivation site of between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy

Small Indoor

An indoor cultivation site of between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy

Small Mixed-Light

A mixed-light cultivation site of between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy

Medium Outdoor

An outdoor cultivation site of between 10,001 square feet and 1 acre of total canopy

Medium Indoor

An indoor cultivation site of between 10,001 and 22,000 square feet of total canopy

Medium Mixed-Light

A mixed-light cultivation site of between 10,001 and 22,000 square feet of total canopy

Nursery

Cultivation of cannabis solely as a nursery (examples of typical nursery activities include cloning and seed propagation)

Processor

A cultivation site that conducts only trimming, drying, curing, grading, or packaging of cannabis and nonmanufactured cannabis products

Large Outdoor

Note: CDFA will not issue any Large Outdoor licenses prior to January 1, 2023

For outdoor cultivation that uses no artificial lighting for more than 1 acre of total canopy size on one premises

Large Indoor

Note: CDFA will not issue any Large Indoor licenses prior to January 1, 2023

For indoor cultivation that exclusively uses artificial lighting for more than 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Large Mixed-Light

Note: CDFA will not issue any Large Mixed-Light licenses prior to January 1, 2023

For cultivation using a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) for more than 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Q. What is the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA)?

A. On June 27, 2017, California Governor Jerry Brown signed the cannabis trailer bill (also known as California Senate Bill 94), which effectively merged two existing bills—the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) and the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)—into one streamlined bill: the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA). Having one comprehensive state law will provide for a more unified regulatory process governing both medicinal and adult-use cannabis. You can read the full text of MAUCRSA on the CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing website at: calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov

Q. How long will a license last before it must be renewed?

A. All commercial cannabis cultivation licenses will be valid for one year; a license must be renewed to continue commercial cannabis cultivation.

Q. What is the cannabis track-and-trace system? How will it work?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is developing a track-and-trace system for both medicinal and adult-use (recreational) cannabis that all commercial cannabis licensees in California will be required to use. This system will record the movement of cannabis and cannabis products through the supply chain—from cultivation to sale—which will help ensure that if a public safety concern arises, the source will be identifiable. The track-and-trace system also will help prevent black-market cannabis products from entering the regulated market, and likewise help prevent regulated cannabis products from being diverted into the black market. In June 2017, CDFA selected Franwell Inc. as the state’s cannabis track-and-trace vendor.

Q. Will there be different rules for how medicinal and adult-use (recreational) cannabis may be grown in California?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is still developing regulations, but the cultivation requirements are expected to be the same for growing medicinal and adult-use cannabis. However, cannabis products sold to the public must be clearly differentiated as either medicinal or adult-use (recreational) products.

Q. Is cannabis considered an agricultural crop in California?

A. California defines medicinal and adult-use (recreational) cannabis as an agricultural product. However, this identification as an agricultural product is limited to the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA).

Q. How can I contact CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing?

A. Visit the CalCannabis website at cannabis.cdfa.ca.gov; call (916) 263-0801, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm; or send an email to cannabis@cdfa.ca.gov.

Q. Which department should I contact to learn about other—noncultivation—types of state cannabis licenses?

A. The **Bureau of Cannabis Control** (also known as the bureau) is within the California Department of Consumer Affairs and will issue licenses for **distribution, dispensaries, microbusinesses, and testing laboratories.**

Visit the bureau's website at bcc.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

The **Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch** (MCSB) is within the California Department of Public Health and will issue licenses for **manufacturing (such as edibles and topical products).**

Visit the MCSB website at cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/MCSB.aspx or call (916) 440-7861, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

All three of California's cannabis licensing authorities also can be reached via the **California Cannabis Portal** at: cannabis.ca.gov