

State of California
Department of Cannabis Control
California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 19
Notice of Modifications to Proposed Regulation Text:

Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Updates; Minimum Sanitation Standards

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.8(c) and section 44 of title 1 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the Department of Cannabis Control (Department) hereby provides notice of modifications to the proposed regulation text that was the subject of public hearings on April 29, 2025, and August 5, 2025. The text of the regulations with proposed modifications is attached to this Notice.

Written Comment Period

The written comment period begins on November 6, 2025, and ends on November 21, 2025. Any interested person, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed text modifications by mail or email to:

Department of Cannabis Control
Legal Affairs Division
2920 Kilgore Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
E-mail: publiccomment@cannabis.ca.gov

All written comments received by November 21, 2025, that pertain to the proposed text modifications will be considered by the Department and summarized and responded to in the Final Statement of Reasons.

Summary of, and Rationale for, Proposed Modifications to Regulation Text

Section 15060. Animals and Animal Waste.

The Department proposes to further modify subsection (b) to clarify that the requirement will only apply to areas containing cannabis plants or harvested cannabis, plus a reasonably small buffer zone of 30 feet around these areas. Several commenters stated that the proposed requirement to immediately remove and dispose of animal waste found anywhere on the licensed premises would create an unreasonable burden on outdoor cultivators, considering that a licensed premises may be the entire parcel, including large areas that are not technically canopy or are not used for commercial cannabis cultivation at all.

Section 15061. Tools, Utensils, Equipment, and Containers.

The Department proposes to further modify the scope of subsections (a)(1) through (a)(3), rendering the requirements applicable only to post-harvest activities. Many commenters voiced concerns about the impracticability of requiring outdoor cultivation equipment to remain free of dust, dirt, debris, considering the nature of outdoor farming, growing, and harvesting practices. The Department understands these concerns and believes that focusing on the cleanliness of processing, packaging, and other post-harvest activities removes the burden on farmers and growers yet still mitigates contamination and protects the health and safety of licensees, inspectors, and consumers as intended.

Additionally, the Department proposes to further modify subsection (b) by tempering the definition of “clean” in the context of these proposed rules. While reasonableness has always been implied, feedback received during prior comment periods indicates a need for clarity. The purpose of section 15061 is to combat contamination and unsafe conditions by establishing simple, commonsense measures that can be followed by licensees in ways that impose as little burden or disruption as possible. The Department does not expect or require licensees to maintain hospital-grade cleanliness on their premises, such that discovery of a speck of dust on a processing tool constitutes a violation of law. It is necessary to clarify that licensees may not allow dust, dirt, debris, etc. to accumulate to the point at which it becomes visible to the naked eye. Discovery during an inspection of accumulated substances is a reasonable indicator that the licensee is not cleaning their tools or equipment properly or at required intervals.

Section 16307. Pesticide Use Requirements.

The Department proposes to add new subsection (b), which interprets Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 26039.6(a)(1) by clarifying that the presence of unregistered, unlabeled, or mislabeled pesticides on a licensed premises renders the entire premises “unsanitary” for purposes of determining whether cannabis or cannabis products are adulterated. Unregistered, unlabeled, and mislabeled pesticides are already generally prohibited from sale or use in California under federal and state law; there is no reason why cultivators should have any of these products in their possession. However, DCC inspectors are finding these products on licensed premises with increasing frequency. Some of these products are so exotic or new that not only is their presence not currently required to be tested for under DCC regulations, but validated and reliable test methods do not yet exist. Still, it is commonly understood that many of these products are extremely dangerous to use, store, or even be in the vicinity of, the latter of which presents a critical health hazard for DCC inspectors who encounter these products onsite. These products present a severe danger to the health and safety of consumers who might use or consume cannabis or cannabis products that have been contaminated with illegal pesticides, but DCC’s enforcement abilities are

hampered by the near impossibility of confirmatory testing, which is usually determinative in product condemnation matters. Thus, DCC finds it necessary to deem conditions unsanitary, and consider all cannabis and cannabis products injuriously adulterated, at a premises where illegal pesticides are discovered.