

California Industrial Hemp Law

The following sections are extracts from Division 24 the California Food and Agricultural Code. They have been prepared by the Nursery, Seed, and Cotton Program, Pest Exclusion Branch, California Department of Food and Agriculture. These extracts are provided for information purposes only. For the official text, the user should consult the California Food and Agricultural Code published by the California State Legislature.

81000. Definitions. For purposes of this division, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Board” means the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board.

(b) “Commissioner” means the county agricultural commissioner.

(c) “Established agricultural research institution” means any institution that is either:

(1) A public or private institution or organization that maintains land or facilities for agricultural research, including colleges, universities, agricultural research centers, and conservation research centers; or

(2) An institution of higher education (as defined in Section 1001 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that grows, cultivates or manufactures industrial hemp for purposes of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or other agricultural or academic research.

(d) “Industrial hemp” has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(e) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

(f) “Seed breeder” means an individual or public or private institution or organization that is registered with the commissioner to develop seed cultivars intended for sale or research.

(g) “Seed cultivar” means a variety of industrial hemp.

(h) “Seed development plan” means a strategy devised by a seed breeder, or applicant seed breeder, detailing his or her planned approach to growing and developing a new seed cultivar for industrial hemp.

(Amended November 8, 2016, by initiative Proposition 64, Sec. 9.2. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81001. (a) There is in the department an Industrial Hemp Advisory Board. The board shall consist of 11 members, appointed by the secretary as follows:

(1) Three of the board members shall be growers of industrial hemp that are registered pursuant to the provisions of this division. In the case of forming the initial board, and if the registration program established pursuant to this division has not yet been implemented, these board members shall be those who intend to register as growers of industrial hemp. A member of the board who is a grower of industrial hemp, or who intends to register as a grower of industrial hemp, shall be a representative of at least one of the following functions:

- (A) Seed production.
- (B) Seed condition.
- (C) Marketing.
- (D) Seed utilization.

(2) Two of the board members shall be members of an established agricultural research institution.

(3) One member of the board shall be a representative as provided by the California State Sheriffs' Association and approved by the secretary.



- (4) One member of the board shall be a county agricultural commissioner.
- (5) One member of the board shall be a representative of the Hemp Industries Association or its successor industry association.
- (6) One member of the board shall be a representative of industrial hemp product processors or manufacturers.
- (7) One member of the board shall be a representative of businesses that sell industrial hemp products.
- (8) One member of the board shall be a member of the public.

(b) It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that growers and representatives of industrial hemp product manufacturers and businesses appointed to the board pursuant to this division are intended to represent and further the interest of a particular agricultural industry, and that the representation and furtherance is intended to serve the public interest. Accordingly, the Legislature finds that persons who are appointed to the board shall be subject to the conflict-of-interest provisions described in Section 87103 of the Government Code.

(c) The term of office for a member of the board is three years. If a vacancy exists, the secretary shall, consistent with the membership requirements described in subdivision (a), appoint a replacement member to the board for the duration of the term.

(d) A member of the board shall not receive a salary but may be reimbursed by the department for attendance at meetings and other board activities authorized by the board and approved by the secretary.

(e) The board shall advise the secretary and may make recommendations on all matters pertaining to this division, including, but not limited to, industrial hemp seed law and regulations, enforcement, annual budgets required to accomplish the purposes of this division, and the setting of an appropriate assessment rate necessary for the administration of this division.

(f) The board shall annually elect a chair from its membership and, from time to time, other officers as it deems necessary.

(g) The board shall meet at the call of its chair or the secretary, or at the request of any four members of the board. The board shall meet at least once a year to review budget proposals and fiscal matters related to the proposals.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81002. (a) Except when grown by an established agricultural research institution or by a registered seed breeder developing a new California seed cultivar, industrial hemp shall only be grown if it is on the list of approved seed cultivars.

(b) The list of approved seed cultivars shall include all of the following:

- (1) Industrial hemp seed cultivars that have been certified on or before January 1, 2013, by member organizations of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, including, but not limited to, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.
- (2) Industrial hemp seed cultivars that have been certified on or before January 1, 2013, by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.
- (3) California varieties of industrial hemp seed cultivars that have been certified by a seed-certifying agency pursuant to Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 52401) of Chapter 2 of Division 18.

(c) Upon recommendation by the board or the department, the secretary may update the list of approved seed cultivars by adding, amending, or removing seed cultivars.

- (1) The adoption, amendment, or repeal of the list of approved seed cultivars, and the adoption of a methodology and procedure to add, amend, or remove a seed cultivar from the list of approved seed cultivars, pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative

Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(2) The department, in consultation with the board, shall hold at least one public hearing with public comment to determine the methodology and procedure by which a seed cultivar is added, amended, or removed from the list of approved seed cultivars.

(3) The department shall finalize the methodology and procedure to add, amend, or remove a seed cultivar from the list of approved seed cultivars and send the methodology and procedure to the Office of Administrative Law. The Office of Administrative Law shall file the methodology and procedure promptly with the Secretary of State without further review pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 11349) of Chapter 3.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. The methodology and procedure shall do all of the following:

- (A) Indicate that the methodology and procedure are adopted pursuant to this division.
- (B) State that the methodology and procedure are being transmitted for filing.
- (C) Request that the Office of Administrative Law publish a notice of the filing of the methodology and procedure and print an appropriate reference in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

(d) The department, in consultation with the board, may determine the manner in which the public is given notice of the list of approved seed cultivars, and any addition, amendment, or removal from that list.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81003. (a) Except for an established agricultural research institution, and before cultivation, a grower of industrial hemp for commercial purposes shall register with the commissioner of the county in which the grower intends to engage in industrial hemp cultivation.

(1) The application shall include all of the following:

- (A) The name, physical address, and mailing address of the applicant.
- (B) The legal description, Global Positioning System coordinates, and map of the land area on which the applicant plans to engage in industrial hemp cultivation, storage, or both.
- (C) The approved seed cultivar to be grown and whether the seed cultivar will be grown for its grain or fiber, or as a dual purpose crop.

(2) (A) The application shall be accompanied by a registration fee, as determined pursuant to Section 81005.

(B) A registration issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for two years, after which the registrant shall renew his or her registration and pay an accompanying renewal fee, as determined pursuant to Section 81005.

(b) If the commissioner determines that the requirements for registration pursuant to this division are met, the commissioner shall issue a registration to the applicant.

(c) A registrant that wishes to alter the land area on which the registrant conducts industrial hemp cultivation, storage, or both, shall, before altering the area, submit to the commissioner an updated legal description, Global Positioning System coordinates, and map specifying the proposed alteration. Once the commissioner has received the change to the registration, the commissioner shall notify the registrant that it may cultivate industrial hemp on the altered land area.

(d) A registrant that wishes to change the seed cultivar grown shall submit to the commissioner the name of the new, approved seed cultivar to be grown. Once the commissioner has received the change to the registration, the commissioner shall notify the registrant that it may cultivate the new seed cultivar.

(e) The commissioner shall transmit information collected under this section to the department.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81004. (a) Except when grown by an established agricultural research institution, and before cultivation, a

seed breeder shall register with the commissioner of the county in which the seed breeder intends to engage in industrial hemp cultivation.

(1) The application shall include all of the following:

- (A) The name, physical address, and mailing address of the applicant.
- (B) The legal description, Global Positioning System coordinates, and map of the land area on which the applicant plans to engage in industrial hemp cultivation, storage, or both.
- (C) The approved seed cultivar to be grown and whether the seed cultivar will be grown for its grain or fiber, as a dual purpose crop, or for seed production.
- (D) If an applicant intends to develop a new California seed cultivar to be certified by a seed-certifying agency, the applicant shall include all of the following:
 - (i) The name of the seed-certifying agency that will be conducting the certification.
 - (ii) The industrial hemp varieties that will be used in the development of the new California seed cultivar.
 - (iii) A seed development plan specifying how the listed industrial hemp varieties will be used in the development of the new seed cultivar, measures that will be taken to prevent the unlawful use of industrial hemp or seed cultivars under this division, and a procedure for the maintenance of records documenting the development of the new seed cultivar.

(2) (A) The application shall be accompanied by a registration fee, as determined pursuant to Section 81005.

(B) A registration issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for two years, after which the registrant shall renew its registration and pay an accompanying renewal fee, as determined pursuant to Section 81005.

(b) If the commissioner determines that the requirements for registration pursuant to this division are met, the commissioner shall issue a seed breeder registration to the applicant.

(c) A registrant that wishes to alter the land area on which the registrant conducts industrial hemp cultivation, storage, or both, shall, before altering the area, submit to the commissioner an updated legal description, Global Positioning System coordinates, and map specifying the proposed alteration. Once the commissioner has received the change to the registration, the commissioner shall notify the registrant that it may cultivate industrial hemp on the altered land area.

(d) A registrant that wishes to change the seed cultivar grown shall submit to the commissioner the name of the new, approved seed cultivar to be grown. Once the commissioner has received the change to the registration, the commissioner shall notify the registrant that it may cultivate the new seed cultivar.

(e) A registrant developing a new California seed cultivar who wishes to change any provision of the seed development plan shall submit to the commissioner the revised seed development plan. Once the commissioner has received the change to the registration, the commissioner shall notify the registrant that he or she may cultivate under the revised seed development plan.

(f) All records pertaining to the seed development plan shall be kept and maintained by the seed breeder and be available upon request by the commissioner, a law enforcement agency, or a seed certifying agent.

(g) The commissioner shall transmit information collected under this section to the department.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81005. (a) The department shall establish a registration fee and appropriate renewal fee to be paid by growers of industrial hemp for commercial purposes and seed breeders, not including an established agricultural research institution, to cover the actual costs of implementing, administering, and enforcing the provisions of this division.

(b) Fees collected by the commissioners upon registration or renewal pursuant to Section 81003 or 81004 shall be forwarded, according to procedures set by the department, to the department for deposit into the

Department of Food and Agriculture Fund to be used for the administration and enforcement of this division.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81006. Industrial Hemp Growth Limitations; Prohibitions; Imports; Laboratory Testing.

(a) (1) Except when grown by an established agricultural research institution or a registered seed breeder, industrial hemp shall be grown only as a densely planted fiber or oilseed crop, or both, in acreages of not less than one-tenth of an acre at the same time.

(2) Registered seed breeders, for purposes of seed production, shall only grow industrial hemp as a densely planted crop in acreages of not less than one-tenth of an acre at the same time.

(3) Registered seed breeders, for purposes of developing a new California seed cultivar, shall grow industrial hemp as densely as possible in dedicated acreage of not less than one-tenth of an acre and in accordance with the seed development plan. The entire area of the dedicated acreage is not required to be used for the cultivation of the particular seed cultivar.

(b) Ornamental and clandestine cultivation of industrial hemp is prohibited. All plots shall have adequate signage indicating they are industrial hemp.

(c) Pruning and tending of individual industrial hemp plants is prohibited, except when grown by an established agricultural research institution or when the action is necessary to perform the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) testing described in this section.

(d) Culling of industrial hemp is prohibited, except when grown by an established agricultural research institution, when the action is necessary to perform the THC testing described in this section, or for purposes of seed production and development by a registered seed breeder.

(e) Industrial hemp shall include products imported under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (2013) of the United States International Trade Commission, including, but not limited to, hemp seed, per subheading 1207.99.03, hemp oil, per subheading 1515.90.80, oilcake, per subheading 2306.90.01, true hemp, per heading 5302, true hemp yarn, per subheading 5308.20.00, and woven fabrics of true hemp fibers, per subheading 5311.00.40.

(f) Except when industrial hemp is grown by an established agricultural research institution, a registrant that grows industrial hemp under this section shall, before the harvest of each crop and as provided below, obtain a laboratory test report indicating the THC levels of a random sampling of the dried flowering tops of the industrial hemp grown.

(1) Sampling shall occur as soon as practicable when the THC content of the leaves surrounding the seeds is at its peak and shall commence as the seeds begin to mature, when the first seeds of approximately 50 percent of the plants are resistant to compression.

(2) The entire fruit-bearing part of the plant including the seeds shall be used as a sample. The sample cut shall be made directly underneath the inflorescence found in the top one-third of the plant.

(3) The sample collected for THC testing shall be accompanied by the following documentation:

(A) The registrant's proof of registration.

(B) Seed certification documentation for the seed cultivar used.

(C) The THC testing report for each certified seed cultivar used.

(4) The laboratory test report shall be issued by a laboratory registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, shall state the percentage content of THC, shall indicate the date and location of samples taken, and shall state the Global Positioning System coordinates and total acreage of the crop. If the laboratory test report indicates a percentage content of THC that is equal to or less than three-tenths of 1 percent, the words "PASSED AS CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HEMP" shall appear at or near the top of the laboratory test report. If the laboratory test report indicates a percentage content of THC that is greater than three-tenths of 1 percent, the words "FAILED AS CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HEMP" shall appear at or near the top of the laboratory test report.

(5) If the laboratory test report indicates a percentage content of THC that is equal to or less than three-tenths of 1 percent, the laboratory shall provide the person who requested the testing not less than 10 original copies signed by an employee authorized by the laboratory and shall retain one or more original copies of the laboratory test report for a minimum of two years from its date of sampling.

(6) If the laboratory test report indicates a percentage content of THC that is greater than three-tenths of 1 percent and does not exceed 1 percent, the registrant that grows industrial hemp shall submit additional samples for testing of the industrial hemp grown.

(7) A registrant that grows industrial hemp shall destroy the industrial hemp grown upon receipt of a first laboratory test report indicating a percentage content of THC that exceeds 1 percent or a second laboratory test report pursuant to paragraph (6) indicating a percentage content of THC that exceeds three-tenths of 1 percent but is less than 1 percent. If the percentage content of THC exceeds 1 percent, the destruction shall take place within 48 hours after receipt of the laboratory test report. If the percentage content of THC in the second laboratory test report exceeds three-tenths of 1 percent but is less than 1 percent, the destruction shall take place as soon as practicable, but no later than 45 days after receipt of the second test report.

(8) A registrant that intends to grow industrial hemp and who complies with this section shall not be prosecuted for the cultivation or possession of marijuana as a result of a laboratory test report that indicates a percentage content of THC that is greater than three-tenths of 1 percent but does not exceed 1 percent.

(9) Established agricultural research institutions shall be permitted to cultivate or possess industrial hemp with a laboratory test report that indicates a percentage content of THC that is greater than three-tenths of 1 percent if that cultivation or possession contributes to the development of types of industrial hemp that will comply with the three-tenths of 1 percent THC limit established in this division.

(10) Except for an established agricultural research institution, a registrant that grows industrial hemp shall retain an original signed copy of the laboratory test report for two years from its date of sampling, make an original signed copy of the laboratory test report available to the department, the commissioner, or law enforcement officials or their designees upon request, and shall provide an original copy of the laboratory test report to each person purchasing, transporting, or otherwise obtaining from the registrant that grows industrial hemp the fiber, oil, cake, or seed, or any component of the seed, of the plant.

(g) If, in the Attorney General's opinion issued pursuant to Section 8 of the act that added this division, it is determined that the provisions of this section are not sufficient to comply with federal law, the department, in consultation with the board, shall establish procedures for this section that meet the requirements of federal law.

(Amended November 8, 2016, by initiative Proposition 64, Sec. 9.3. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81008. Attorney General Reports; Requirements.

(a) Not later than January 1, 2019, the Attorney General shall report to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Assembly and Senate Committees on Public Safety the reported incidents, if any, of the following:

(1) A field of industrial hemp being used to disguise marijuana cultivation.

(2) Claims in a court hearing by persons other than those exempted in subdivision (f) of Section 81006 that marijuana is industrial hemp.

(b) A report submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(c) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section is repealed on January 1, 2023, or four years after the date that the report is due, whichever is later.

(Amended November 8, 2016, by initiative Proposition 64, Sec. 9.5. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to

California Industrial Hemp Law (FAC §81000-81010)

Section 81010. Repealed on January 1, 2023, or later as prescribed by its own provisions.)

81009. Not later than January 1, 2019, or five years after the provisions of this division are authorized under federal law, whichever is later, the board, in consultation with the Hemp Industries Association, or its successor industry association, shall report the following to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Assembly and Senate Committees on Public Safety:

(a) The economic impacts of industrial hemp cultivation, processing, and product manufacturing in California.

(b) The economic impacts of industrial hemp cultivation, processing, and product manufacturing in other states that may have permitted industrial hemp cultivation.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 398, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2014. Section operative January 1, 2017, pursuant to Section 81010.)

81010. This division, and Section 221 shall become operative on January 1, 2017.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 27, Sec. 112. Effective June 27, 2017. Note: This section was amended on Nov. 8, 2016, by initiative Prop. 64, making Division 24 (commencing with Section 81000) operative on January 1, 2017.)