



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

CDA Industrial Hemp Inspection, Sampling and Testing Protocol

Inspection Notification and Compliance:

The Commissioner shall send notification to each registrant of their selection for inspection. The notification shall inform the registrant of the scope and process by which the inspection will be conducted and require the registrant to contact the Department within 10 days to set a date and time for the inspection to occur. Sampling shall occur within the 30 days prior to harvest time period as supplied by the registrant to the CDA.

During the inspection, the registrant or an authorized representative shall be present at the growing site. Inspectors shall be provided with complete and unrestricted access to all industrial hemp plants, seeds whether growing or harvested, all land, buildings and other structures used for cultivation and storage of industrial hemp, and all documents and records pertaining to the industrial hemp growing business. Failure to contact the Department as required will result in the initiation of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Part 6 of the Rules and Regulations.

All costs associated with testing shall be at the registrant's expense including but not limited to inspectors time including travel time, inspection and sampling as well as mileage and travel costs. Registrants shall also reimburse the Department for all lab costs and materials associated with testing.

Sampling Procedures:

Except where site specific circumstances warrant otherwise, the following procedures will be used to confirm that the plants registered with the CDA as industrial hemp contain a level of THC at or below 0.3% for purposes of registration under Colorado's Industrial Hemp Registration Program.

Equipment Needed:

Garden Shears (Cleaned prior to and following each composite sample)

Composite sampling bags

Chain of Custody sealing materials and labels

Sampling record form

Pre-sampling observation notes recorded by the inspector should include:

Time and date of observation / sampling

Name of registrant on site during sampling

Location of field or area sampled

Name of each variety included in each sample

Average plant height

Stand density

Stand condition

Stand homogeneity

Plant or inflorescences maturity

When feasible, samples should be taken within 30 days prior to harvest as provided by the registrant for each variety. Material selected for sampling will be solely at the CDA and inspectors discretion.

To ensure the highest THC levels are measured for crops intended for harvest prior to reaching seed or inflorescence stage, plant material taken should be composed of the most mature leaves or buds. The top 2 inches (5cm) should be collected from each plant sampled.

When feasible, samples for crops where seed development is intended should take place when seeds begin to mature, i.e. when the first seeds of 50% of the plants are resistant to compression. Samples should be collected from the inflorescence including foliage leaf material, involucre leaves and buds. While stems and seeds may be collected during the process to speed sampling, they will be removed for testing purposes during lab processing.

Composite samples should be taken for each variety in a growing area. Sufficient quantities for laboratory testing should be collected from each variety. Specimens should be sealed and recorded for chain of custody in preparation for transport to the lab.

Specimen Handling and Testing:

Drying should begin within 12 hours after samples have arrived at the lab to avoid mold and desiccation. To insure the highest THC measurement, stem and seed material should be removed from dried sample material. Remaining material should be poured through a succession of screens until all material passed through a 2mm (5/64 inch) mesh then ground in a mill with a 0.5mm (1/64th inch) screen to prepare for lab analysis. The mill should be cleaned after each use.

Each composite sample should be divided into two split testing specimens both labeled the same. One specimen will be used for compliance testing and reporting. The other specimen will be retained for retesting if necessary.

Quantitative determination of delta-9 THC levels will be determined by the CDA lab using HPLC or gas chromatography after its extraction with a suitable solvent. At the Commissioner's discretion, where test analysis indicate a THC higher than 0.3%, the set aside split sample may be used for retesting.

A composite test result greater than 0.3% THC will be considered conclusive evidence that at least one Cannabis plant or part of a plant in the growing area contains a THC concentration over the limit allowed for industrial hemp and that the registrant of that growing area is therefore not in compliance with the Act.

Sample test results for industrial hemp registrations that are greater than 1.0% THC concentration may be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.