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REF: B/279/35/20/2022

CIRCULAR 20 of 2022

Date: 10/10/2022

To: ALL LICENSED CANNABIS/HEMP PRODUCERS, MANUFACTURERS,
IMPORTERS/ EXPORTERS, RETAIL PHARMACISTS

**RE: THE AUTHORITY'S POSITION ON CANNABIDIOL (CBD)-INFUSED PRODUCTS
SUCH AS FOOD STUFFS, BEVERAGES.**

As a follow up to the MCAZ Circular 17 of 2022, the Authority would like to clarify its position on CBD-infused food stuffs, and beverages. The Authority recognizes CBD as a complementary medicine. CBD interacts with the human body in various ways and one (1) critical mechanism of CBD action being its ability to enhance intrinsic signaling of the endocannabinoid anandamide by decreasing cellular uptake and fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH)-mediated catabolism. This could play a significant role in the therapeutic effects of CBD.

According to the Medicines and Allied Substances Control (Complementary Medicines) Regulations, Statutory Instrument 97 of 2015. Complementary medicine means;

any substance or mixture of substances which is used, or is manufactured, sold or represented as suitable for use, in-

(a) the mitigation or prevention of disease or abnormal physical mental state or the symptoms thereof in human beings or in animals;

(b) restoring, correcting or modifying any physical, mental or organic function in man or in animals; which originates from a plant, mineral, animal or insect and includes substances generally referred to as Aromatherapeutic Substances, Ayurvedic Medicines, Energy Substances or Medicines, Homeopathic Remedies, Nutritional Substances in Pharmaceutical Form, Traditional Chinese Medicines, Traditional Dutch Remedies, Unani Tibb Medicines, Western Herbal Medicines, and such other medicines or remedies as may be approved by the Authority;

Therefore taking the above definition into consideration, any CBD product that is presented in pharmaceutical form or any CBD-infused product shall be registrable as a complementary medicine.

The Authority would also like to clarify that it does not regulate industrial hemp, and thus recognises hemp seed oil and any edible substance derived from hemp seeds as foodstuffs.

Yours faithfully

MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE


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R.T. Rukwata (Mr.)

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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