

LICENCING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

CANNABIS LICENSING AND PRODUCTION FAQs

Q. What is Cannabis (commonly known as medicinal cannabis)?

A. According to the Dangerous Drugs (Production of Cannabis for medicinal and scientific use) Statutory Instrument 62 of 2018, the definition of Cannabis “includes fresh or dried cannabis, cannabis oil, cannabis plants or cannabis seeds.”

Q. What are Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD)?

A. The Cannabis plant contains chemicals called cannabinoids. The two major ones are Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD), in varying concentrations. THC is psychoactive in nature and is the cannabinoid responsible for the “euphoric” high associated with cannabis. CBD on the other hand is not psychoactive in nature. Both CBD and THC have been found have medicinal properties.

Q. What is the difference between medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp?

A. According to Zimbabwean laws industrial hemp is a form of cannabis *sativa L* which contains THC of less than 0.3% and while medicinal cannabis contains more than 0.3% THC.

Q. What is the current status of medicinal cannabis in terms of the S.I. 62 of 2018?

A. The S.I. 62 of 2018 legalized production of Cannabis for Medicinal and Scientific Uses **only**. The S.I. 62 of 2018 provides for two types of licences:

1. **Cultivation and Research of Cannabis** (*Research and Development*).
2. **Cultivation and Production of Cannabis** (*Production for export purposes as well as Research & Development activities*)

The medicinal cannabis produced is currently for **export purposes only**. **Local use of medicinal cannabis produced in Zimbabwe** can only be in the form of **research and development**. Only producers licensed in terms of the S.I. 62 of 2018 are allowed to produce Cannabis from their licensed sites.

Q. Who is authorised to handle cannabis?

A. A holder of a licence to produce Cannabis for medicinal and scientific uses.

Q. Is Industrial Hemp a narcotic substance in Zimbabwe?

A. No

Q. What is the difference between hemp seed oil and CBD oil?

A. Hemp seed oil is the oil obtained through cold pressing or crushing of the seeds of the industrial hemp plant, while CBD oil is the oil extracted from the leaves, stalks and flowers/buds of both cannabis and industrial hemp plants.

Q. What is the maximum allowable THC content to be produced in Zimbabwe?

A. Section 42 (1) of the Dangerous Drugs (Production of Cannabis for Medicinal and Scientific use) Regulations, Statutory Instrument 62 of 2018 *“the Regulations”*, provides that: *Cannabis oil shall not exceed a maximum yield quantity of 30 mg of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol per millilitre of the oil in the immediate container, taking into account the potential to convert delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinolic acid into delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol.*

This means that the maximum (THC) yield quantity in Cannabis oil is equivalent to 3%. However, the Regulations are silent on the (THC) level for dried Cannabis plant and Cannabis flower therefore it is expected that the destination market will determine the appropriate levels of THC.

Q. Is outdoor cultivation of medicinal cannabis permitted?

A. Section 31 of the S.I. 62 of 2018, as read with the definition of **Site**, requires a licensed producer to ensure that areas where cannabis is present are equipped with a system that filters air to prevent the escape of odours and, if present, pollen.

Q. Can any person import CBD-containing medicinal products?

A. MCAZ allows importation of only registered CBD-containing medicinal products through an import permit issued in terms of SI 57 of 2008.

Q. Can one start cultivating Cannabis as soon as they get their Cannabis production licence?

A. The medicinal cannabis license is issued with the following conditions imposed by the Minister of Health and the conditions shall be fulfilled prior to commencement of cultivation activities:

1. The proposed site for cannabis cultivation is subject to inspection for compliance with the provisions of S.I. 62 of 2018 prior to commencement of any operations.
2. The commencement of operations shall be subject to written authorisation from the Secretary for Health and Child Care.