

# Mississippi Medical **CANNABIS** Program

August 4, 2026

## **RE: DEA Registration Update for Cultivation, Processing, Transportation, & Waste Disposal Entities**

Dear Licensees:

The Mississippi State Department of Health/Medical Cannabis Program would like to provide the following update regarding Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration for medical cannabis licensees.

During recent discussions with the DEA, the agency strongly indicated that medical cannabis sales by facilities without DEA registration would be considered unlawful, suggesting that registration is required to continue handling medical cannabis. Furthermore, facilities without DEA registration would not legally be able to conduct business with DEA-registered facilities, and vice versa.

Currently, the DEA has not launched a registration portal specifically for licensed medical cannabis cultivation, processing, transportation, and waste disposal entities. However, these license types may apply for registration by submitting **DEA Form 225**.

The form can be found at <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/registration.html>. This form is not used specifically for Schedule III medical cannabis, therefore, please make a reference to “medical cannabis” in any freeform space. The DEA anticipates that new application reviews and pre-registration inspections will take several months, and applicants submitting now should expect extended processing times.

Currently, the DEA is prioritizing pre-registration inspections and final decisions for facilities that submitted applications during the initial 60-day application period, the majority of which are dispensaries. DEA stated that entities that apply for and receive a DEA control number may continue operating legally while awaiting their required pre-registration inspections and final determination by the DEA. DEA further stated that these entities may also legally conduct business with current DEA-registered facilities during the waiting period. A DEA control number is not indicative of a final application decision.

For registration purposes, the DEA generally classifies medical cannabis licensees as follows:

- **Manufacturers (Bulk):** cultivation
- **Manufacturers:** processing
- **Distributors:** transportation (in some cases, processing facilities, depending on their specific activities - final classification will be determined by the DEA during pre-registration inspections)
- **Reverse Distributors:** waste disposal
- **Analytical Laboratories:** testing laboratories

Please note that vertically integrated entities must register each licensed operation separately with the DEA.

Currently, approximately 40 Mississippi licensed medical cannabis facilities, including cultivation, processing, and transportation, have submitted DEA registration applications and should anticipate pre-registration visits in the upcoming months.

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The Department will continue to share updates and additional guidance as more information becomes available. Please submit questions regarding DEA registration to [MCLicensing@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:MCLicensing@msdh.ms.gov) in writing.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to maintaining compliance with applicable state and federal requirements.

Sincerely,



**Marcus D. Davenport**  
Director

cc: Daniel Edney, MD, State Health Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health  
Laura Goodson, J.D., Director MSDH/Center for Health Policy, Planning & Regulation