Cannabis Control Commission
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Cannabis Office Bulletin 2026-7

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Federal Total THC Limit for All Hemp-Derived Products Enforcement

This bulletin is issued by the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission ("CCC"), through the Cannabis Office, to provide guidance regarding enforcement of the federal total THC limit for all hemp-derived products. Pursuant to Section 2019 of the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2027, on **December 11, 2026**, a federal limit for hemp-derived products will take effect, subject to delays or further guidance from the federal government. Under the new requirement, **final hemp-derived products manufactured, processed, distributed, offered for sale and/or sold at retail, including online sales, shall not contain more than 0.4mgs of total THC per container and intermediate hemp-derived products shall not contain more than 0.3% total THC by volume on a dry weight basis,** subject to further guidance from the federal government.

As such, any hemp-derived product manufactured, processed, distributed and/or advertised or offered for sale in Rhode Island that exceeds either 0.4mgs of total THC per container or 0.3% total THC by volume on a dry weight basis for intermediate hemp-derived products, as applicable, on or after December 11, 2026 will be considered noncompliant, and shall be subject to administrative penalties including but not limited to monetary fines, unless otherwise directed by the federal government.

These total THC limits apply to all businesses who manufacture, process, distribute or offer hemp-derived products for sale including those with approved RI Industrial Hemp Program Licenses, and those with:

- Hemp Handler, and/or Dual License(s)
- Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD Distributor License(s)
- Hemp-Derived Consumable CBD Retailer License(s)

Please be advised that:

Licensees may store hemp-derived products above these limits that were manufactured, processed, and/or procured in compliance with the Act and all regulations and requirements prior to December 11, 2026, in a designated "quarantine" area of their licensed facility. This "quarantine" area shall only

contain hemp-derived products above 0.4mgs of total THC per container, or 0.3% total THC by volume on a dry weight basis for intermediate hemp-derived products, as applicable, that were manufactured, processed, and/or procured in compliance with the Act and all regulations prior to December 11, 2026. These hemp-derived products will solely be permitted to be stored in this "quarantined" area after such date.

They are not permitted to be further processed, moved, distributed and/or be offered for sale unless explicitly authorized by the Federal Government and/or the Cannabis Control Commission.

Additionally, on or before December 4, 2026, all hemp-derived products that will be stored in a designated "quarantine" area of a licensed hemp premises must be identified via the Hemp Quarantine 2026 document available and submitted to the Cannabis Control Commission by December 4, 2026. A copy of the Hemp Quarantine 2026 document must be physically kept onsite and made available to Cannabis Office staff upon request. No hemp-derived products will be permitted to be added or removed from the Hemp Quarantine 2026 document and/or the "quarantine" area after December 11, 2026. A request to destroy any product identified in the Hemp Quarantine 2026 document and in the "quarantine" area of the licensed facility may be submitted at any time to the Cannabis Office. All destructions of such products are required to be destroyed under Cannabis Office supervision. Inspections, including inventory audits, may be required at any point by the Cannabis Office.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the difference between "intermediate" and "final" hemp-derived products for the purpose of the Bulletin?

"Hemp-derived products" means any intermediate or final product that is made or derived from compliantly harvested hemp. Intermediate products include any bulk biomass, concentrate and/or distillate that is not in a final form container. Intermediate products are subject to the 0.3% total THC dry-weight limit. Final products include flower, pre-rolls, edibles, drinks, tinctures, concentrates intended for inhalation, etc., that are packaged in enclosed containers for retail sale to consumers. Final products are subject to the threshold of 0.4mgs of Total THC per container.

What are some recommended best practices for destroying hemp-derived products safely?

Prior to disposal, hemp-derived products must be made unusable and any hemp plant material made indistinguishable from other plant material. This may be accomplished by grinding and incorporating the hemp plant waste with other non-consumable solid waste or other ground materials, so the resulting mixture is at least fifty percent non-cannabis waste by volume.

Hemp-derived material, once made unusable, may be delivered to a licensed solid waste disposal facility. Note that hemp-derived THC beverages are not considered hazardous waste, unlike traditional alcohol products, and may therefore be disposed of in accordance with the best practices outlined herein.

Can I request that the Cannabis Office observe and record the destruction of all hemp-derived products above the applicable limit to ensure compliance?

Yes, please contact CCCC.CannabisCompliance@ccc.ri.gov to schedule a destruction.

Do I need to remove all hemp-derived products above the 0.4mgs of total THC limit, or the 0.3% total THC limit, as applicable, from my website(s) as well?

Yes, hemp-derived products above the total THC limits are not permitted to be offered for sale effective December 11, 2026. This would include such products being shown, displayed or advertised on any website.

Do I still need a hemp-derived license if I want to manufacture, process, distribute or offer for sale hemp-derived products below 0.4mgs of total THC?

Yes, a license issued by the Cannabis Control Commission is still required to manufacture, process, distribute or offer for sale hemp-derived products below 0.4mgs of total THC per container or 0.3% total THC by volume, as applicable. All requirements pursuant to 560-RICR-10-20-1 are also still required.

If I am growing hemp, have any of the federal or state requirements changed pursuant to these new total THC limits?

No. All requirements pursuant to the USDA and the State of Rhode Island's hemp regulations are still effective. The new total THC limit does not impact the planting, growing, sampling, harvesting and/or required testing for all hemp and hemp plants. A license issued by the Cannabis Control Commission is still required to grow hemp in Rhode Island. All requirements pursuant to 560-RICR-10-20-1 are also still required.

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Are final hemp-derived products that exceed the 0.4mgs of total THC per container, or intermediate products that exceed 0.3% total THC by volume, permitted to be transferred to a licensed cannabis retailer through an External Transfer request and will not be permitted to be sold as cannabis products.

No. This prohibition applies regardless of the testing standard or methodology previously used to evaluate the product.

What happens if federal law changes before the December 11, 2026 effective date?

The Cannabis Control Commission will continue to monitor any changes to federal law and amend requirements and/or dates to comply with any changes and communicate such requirements with implementation deadlines to hemp licensees.