



County of Imperial

COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITY LICENSE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What type of Cannabis operations does the County of Imperial Allow?

A: The County of Imperial allows for the commercial cultivation, nursery, manufacturing (including processing and storage), wholesale distribution, testing laboratories, and retail operations (virtual and medical) with delivery.

The County of Imperial also permits Industrial Hemp operations. Please contact the County of Imperial Agriculture Commissioner's Office at (442) 265-1500, for additional information, or visit their website at www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag.

Q: Where can I operate a commercial cannabis business?

A: The County of Imperial allows for commercial cannabis business (all forms) within the unincorporated areas designated as Gateway Industrial Zone (GI) of the Gateway of America's Specific Plan Area; and the Light Industrial (MLI1), Medium Industrial (MLI2) and Heavy Industrial (MLI3) Zones of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area. The cultivation of commercial cannabis (non-volatile materials) is allowed within the Government Special Public (G/S) Zone.

The County of Imperial allows for a retail operation with delivery business of a commercial cannabis operations within the unincorporated areas designated as Gateway Commercial (GC) and Gateway Central Commercial Overlay (GCCO) Zones of the Gateway of America's Specific Area Plan as well as the Light Industrial (MLI1), Medium Industrial (MLI2) and Heavy Industrial (MLI3) Zones of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area Zones of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area and within the Imperial Center Commercial Zone (IC CZ) of the Imperial Center Specific Plan.

The County of Imperial with an approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) also allows for the operation of a commercial cannabis business (all forms) within the unincorporated areas designated Light Industrial (M-1) and the Medium Industrial (M-2) Zones of Imperial County; the Agricultural Related Light Industrial (AM-1) (Manufacturing only) and Agricultural Related Medium Industrial (AM-2) Zones (Manufacturing only). The manufacturing of commercial cannabis is also permitted within the Government Special Public (G/S) Zone.

The County of Imperial with an approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) also allows for the operation of a commercial cannabis retail operation with delivery within the General Commercial (C-2) and Heavy Commercial (C-3) Zones of the Imperial County.

(Please see the County of Imperial Industrial Zone Maps)

Q: Can I operate my commercial cannabis business outdoors?

A: No. The County of Imperial only allows for an "indoor" operation of a commercial cannabis business.

Q: Where can I grow Industrial hemp?

A: The cultivation, harvesting, testing and light processing of industrial hemp will be an allowed use within the unincorporated areas of the County of Imperial designated as General Agriculture (A-2) and Heavy Agriculture (A-3), Agricultural Related Light Industrial (AM-1) and Agricultural Related Medium Industrial (AM-2) Zones of the Imperial County as well as Gateway Industrial (GI), Gateway Commercial (GC), Gateway Commercial Overlay (GCCO) Zones of the Gateway Specific Area Plan (on undeveloped areas that are currently being used

for cultivation), the Medium Industrial (MLI2) and Heavy Industrial (MLI3) Zones of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan (on undeveloped areas that are currently being used for cultivation) and the Government Special Public (G/S) Zone.

The processing/manufacturing of industrial hemp into semi-finished and finished products will be allowed within the unincorporated areas of the County of Imperial areas designated as Light Industrial (M-1) and Medium Industrial (M-2) Zones of the Imperial County, Gateway Industrial (GI); the Agricultural Related Light Industrial (AM-1) and Agricultural Related Medium Industrial (AM-2) Zones of Imperial County; and the Medium Industrial (MLI-2) and Heavy Industrial (MLI-3) of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area, as well as the Government Special Public (G/S) Zone (non-volatile).

Additionally the County allows the processing/manufacturing of industrial hemp into semi-finished and finished products in the Heavy Agriculture (A-3) zones with an approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Light Processing = preparation for transportation of hemp in original state

Semi-finished and Finished = change from what was in the ground

Please contact the County of Imperial Agriculture Commissioner's Office at (442) 265-1500, for additional information about the permitting and growing requirements of industrial hemp in Imperial County, or visit their website at www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag.

Q: What's the difference between "hemp" and "cannabis"?

A: Although both hemp and cannabis are both part of the cannabis family, hemp is completely different from marijuana in its function. Hemp contains very little THC levels (0.3%). Anything higher than a 0.3% (three tenths of one percent) level is considered cannabis (aka marijuana). Both hemp and cannabis are mostly used for psychotropic and medicinal uses. However, hemp is almost purely used for industrial uses.

NOTE: All cannabis species are grouped together and identified as a Schedule I Drug and banned under the 1970 Controlled Substances Act.

Q: Do I have to get a Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license?

A: Yes. A Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license is required to operate your commercial cannabis business in the unincorporated areas of the County of Imperial within the approved designated zones. The cultivation and harvesting of industrial hemp is the only exception. Please refer to the County of Imperial Codified Ordinance Title 14 and the County of Imperial Land Use Ordinance Title 9 Division 4 Chapter 6.

Q: Where can I obtain a Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license application?

A: A Commercial Cannabis Activity license (CCA) application can be obtained from the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department at 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243; requesting the application by email at planninginfo@co.imperial.ca.gov; or by visiting www.icpds.com and downloading the application.

Q: Is there processing fee required for a Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license application?

A: Yes. The Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license application must be submitted in person at the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department along with a \$4,000.00 nonrefundable processing fee. There is an additional \$1,000.00 fee what will be required for the review of the Security Plan (not required at initial submittal of the CCA application).

Q: How many commercial cannabis licenses do I need?

A: A Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license will be required by the County of Imperial for each license that is required by the State of California. For example, an applicant proposing both retail and manufacturing would require two Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) licenses.

Q: Is there a separate fee for the issuance of the Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license?

A: Yes. The Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license will be \$1,500.00.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) licenses being granted?

A: No. The County of Imperial has no limit on the indoor cultivation, testing laboratories, manufacturing, retail operations with delivery operations and wholesale distribution operations. These operations, however, must be conducted within the approved designated zones within the unincorporated areas of Imperial County.