



## County of Imperial

### COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITY LICENSE

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#### Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

**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 Medium Industrial (MLI2) and Heavy Industrial (MLI3) Zones of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area.

The County of Imperial allows for the retail and delivery business of a commercial cannabis operations within the unincorporated areas designated as Gateway Commercial (GC) Zone of the Gateway of America's Specific Area Plan and the Light Industrial (MLI1) Zone of the Mesquite Lake Specific Plan Area.

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 Medium Industrial (M-2) Zones.

(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) zones. Please contact the County of Imperial Agriculture Commissioner's Office at (442) 265-1500, for additional information.

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

**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 business in the unincorporated areas of the County of Imperial within the approved designated zones. The cultivation and harvesting of industrial hemp within the "A-2" and "A-3" zone 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](mailto:planninginfo@co.imperial.ca.gov); or by visiting [www.icpds.com](http://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.

**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: Yes. County of Imperial will be allowing five (5) virtual retail and delivery operations, one (1) physical medicinal with delivery operation (store front), and five (5) wholesale distribution operations. No limit on the indoor cultivation, testing laboratories and manufacturing.

**Q: What is the process for the lottery?**

A: The County of Imperial will be accepting commercial cannabis activity license (CCA) applications commencing January 2018. An initial review of the application will be done to determine acceptance and completeness. The completed application will then enter the lottery. The lottery will be limited to five (5) virtual retails with delivery operations, one (1) physical medicinal with delivery operation and five (5) wholesale distribution operations.

For additional information about the procedure and lottery dates contact the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department at 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243; by calling (442) 265-1736; by email at [planninginfo@co.imperial.ca.gov](mailto:planninginfo@co.imperial.ca.gov); or by visiting [www.icpds.com](http://www.icpds.com).

**Q: If I win the lottery am I guaranteed a Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license?**

A: Lottery winners are not guaranteed a Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license. All other requirements established in the County of Imperial Codified Ordinance and other applicable laws must be met in order to obtain the Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) license.