

**RULES  
OF THE  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 0080-06-28  
INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

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**0080-06-28-.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Act" means Tennessee Public Acts of 2014, Chapter 916.
- (2) "Applicant" means a person that is an individual residing in Tennessee or an institution of higher education as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1001), a sole proprietorship, partnership, association, corporation, limited-liability corporation, limited partnership, or any other business entity having any:
  - (a) Place of business permanently located within this state;
  - (b) Employees permanently assigned to work stations or areas located within this state; or
  - (c) Tangible assets permanently located within this state.
- (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture and any employee of the Department of Agriculture associated with the Industrial Hemp Regulatory Program.
- (4) "Sample" means parts taken as representative of the combined total number of plants in the growing area.
- (5) "Department" means the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
- (6) "Growing Area" means the land area on which industrial hemp is grown.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 43-26-103(e). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed January 15, 2015; effective April 15, 2015.

**0080-06-28-.02 LICENSING.**

- (1) Each applicant for an industrial-hemp license shall submit a signed, complete, accurate, and legible application form provided by the Commissioner by April 1 of the year in which the applicant plans to grow industrial hemp, which includes the following:
  - (a) the applicant's name, mailing address, and phone number in Tennessee and, if applicable, their electronic-mail address;
  - (b) if the applicant is an individual or partnership, the date of birth of the individual or partners;
  - (c) if the applicant is any business entity other than an individual, partnership, or institution of higher learning, documentation that the entity is authorized to do business in Tennessee;

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- (d) the cultivated variety that will be sown;
  - (e) the source and amount of certified seed to be used;
  - (f) the number of acres to be cultivated for seed, viable grain, industrial products, or any combination thereof;
  - (g) the Global Positioning System coordinates in decimal degrees from the central most point of the growing area to be cultivated and a map showing the location of the growing area in terms of its address or legal description;
  - (h) a statement that the applicant is the owner of the growing area to be used for the cultivation or a statement, signed by the owner of the growing area, indicating that he has consented to that use;
  - (k) if the applicant is cultivating for certified seed, evidence of membership in the Tennessee Crop Improvement Association;
  - (l) the address of the place in Tennessee where the applicant will keep the records, books, electronic data, or other documents that are required by these regulations;
  - (m) the name and address of each place where the industrial hemp is to be stored, sold, or provided, indicating for each place the form of the industrial hemp; and
  - (n) the applicant's acknowledgment and agreement to the following terms and conditions:
    - 1. Any information obtained by the Department may be publicly disclosed and provided to law-enforcement agencies without further notice to the applicant or licensee.
    - 2. The licensee agrees to allow any inspection and sampling that the Department deems necessary.
    - 3. The licensee agrees to pay for any sampling and analysis costs that the Department deems necessary.
    - 4. The licensee agrees to submit all required reports by the applicable due dates specified by the Commissioner.
    - 5. The applicant, any partners, directors, or members have not been convicted of any felony related to the possession, production, sale, or distribution of a controlled substance in any form in this or any other country.
- (2) An application shall be signed by the applicant or, in the case of a corporation, cooperative, or partnership, one of its officers, directors, or partners, as the case may be, and indicate that all information and documents submitted in support of the application are correct and complete to the best of his knowledge.
- (3) Any application for a license received after April 1, or that is not complete by April 1, will be denied.
- (4) In addition to the application form, each applicant for a license shall submit the fee set by the Commissioner. If the fee does not accompany the application, the application for a license will be deemed incomplete.
- (5) The annual license fee for production of industrial hemp shall be \$250 plus \$2.00/acre.

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- (6) All licenses shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- (7) Any licensee that wishes to alter the growing areas on which the licensee will conduct industrial-hemp cultivation shall, before altering the area, submit to the Department an updated address, Global Positioning System location, and map specifying the proposed alterations.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 43-26-103(e). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed January 15, 2015; effective April 15, 2015.

#### **0080-06-28-.03 REPORTS.**

- (1) At least seven days prior to harvest, each industrial-hemp licensee shall file a report with the Commissioner that includes documentation that the licensee has entered into a purchase agreement with an industrial-hemp processor. If the licensee has not entered into such an agreement, the licensee shall include a statement of intended disposition of its industrial-hemp crop.
- (2) Licensees must report any subsequent changes to the purchase agreement or disposition statement to the Commissioner within ten days of the change.
- (3) Two business days prior to the movement of the industrial-hemp grain or plant material from the permitted location, the licensee shall submit to the Commissioner an application for movement permit. The application shall include the mode and location to which the product is to be transported. An inspection of the product may occur prior to movement.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 43-26-103(e). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed January 15, 2015; effective April 15, 2015.

#### **0080-06-28-.04 INSPECTIONS.**

- (1) All licensees are subject to sampling of their industrial-hemp crop to verify that the THC concentration does not exceed 0.3% on dry-mass basis.
- (2) During the inspection, the licensee or authorized representative shall be present at the growing area. The licensee or authorized representative shall provide the Department's inspector with complete and unrestricted access to all industrial-hemp plants and seeds whether growing or harvested, all land, buildings, and other structures used for the cultivation and storage of industrial hemp, and all documents and records pertaining to the licensee's industrial-hemp business.
- (3) Sampling of industrial-hemp plants will occur in the following manner:
  - (a) Samples of each variety of industrial hemp may be sampled from the growing areas at the Department's discretion.
  - (b) Quantitative laboratory determination of the THC concentration on a dry-mass basis will be performed according to protocols approved by the Commissioner.
  - (c) A sample test result greater than 0.3% THC will be considered conclusive evidence that at least one cannabis plant or part of a plant in the growing area contains a THC concentration over the limit allowed for industrial hemp and that the licensee of that growing area is therefore not in compliance with the Act. Upon receipt of such a test result, the Commissioner may summarily suspend and revoke the registration of an industrial-hemp licensee in accordance with T.C.A. §

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4-5-320. The Commissioner shall furnish to the licensee a portion of the violative sample if the licensee requests it within thirty days of notification.

- (d) Test results from an institution of higher education may, at the Commissioner's discretion, be accepted in lieu of Department sampling.

(4) Fees

- (a) Licensees shall pay a charge of \$35 dollars per hour per inspector for actual drive time, mileage, inspection, and sampling time.
- (b) Licensees shall reimburse the Department for all laboratory-analysis costs incurred.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 43-26-103(e). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed January 15, 2015; effective April 15, 2015.

**0080-06-28-.05 VIOLATIONS.**

In addition to any other violations of T.C.A. § 43-26-103 or this Chapter, the following acts and omissions by any licensee or authorized representative thereof constitute violations for which civil penalties up to \$500 and disciplinary sanctions, including revocation of a registration, may be imposed by the Commissioner in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 4-3-204 and 4-5-320:

- (1) Refusal or failure by a licensee or authorized representative to fully cooperate and assist the Department with the inspection process.
- (2) Failure to provide any information required or requested by the Commissioner for purposes of T.C.A. § 43-26-103 or this Chapter.
- (3) Providing false, misleading, or incorrect information pertaining to the licensee's cultivation of industrial hemp to the Commissioner by any means, including but not limited to information provided in any application form, report, record or inspection required or maintained for purposes of T.C.A. § 43-26-103 or this Chapter.
- (4) Failure to submit any required report in accordance with Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0080-06-28-.03.
- (5) Growing industrial hemp that when tested is shown to have a THC concentration greater than 0.3% on a dry-mass basis.
- (6) Failure to pay fees assessed by the Commissioner for inspection or laboratory-analysis costs.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 43-26-103(e). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed January 15, 2015; effective April 15, 2015.