

Industrial Hemp Guidance

March 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Background: On October 6, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 45 into law, legalizing industrial hemp (IH) use in food, dietary supplements, beverages, pet food, and cosmetics. On April 26, 2024, Governor Newsom directed the Department of Public Health and Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control to issue notices addressing the sale and distribution of potentially harmful products infused with hemp derivatives.

On September 6, 2024, Governor Newsom announced emergency regulations issued by the Department of Public Health that require that industrial hemp, food additives, beverages, and dietary supplements intended for human consumption have no detectable tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) per serving, cannot be sold to purchasers under age 21, and may have no more than 5 servings per package. Food products containing industrial hemp can still contain cannabidiol (CBD).

Safety Issues: Food products containing industrial hemp may contain cannabidiol (CBD). However, hemp manufacturers have been producing and marketing hemp products that contain THC without the safeguards that are in place for similar cannabis products. Hemp products have been made available at major and small retailers and marketed for their intoxicating THC properties.

Note:

- Even if THC is below 0.3%, it can greatly affect the health of minors who may accidentally consume a product that contains such cannabinoids. Pre-packaged products that contain THC can only be sold at approved authorized cannabis retail facilities.
- Industrial hemp food products must be prepared in a facility with a permit from a manufacturer/distributor registered with California Department of Public Health Food and Drug Branch.
- Industrial hemp food products may only be offered for sale in prepackaged form and must comply with the Sherman Food Drug & Cosmetic Law as well as the California Retail Food Code. CBD extract cannot be added to food products in a retail food facility.

Required Actions:

- Remove any items from sale that do not comply with [emergency order dated 9/6/24](#).
- Retailers (e.g., liquor stores, smoke shops) selling hemp infused food product containing THC as an ingredient or have improperly labeled industrial hemp products, may be subject to legal enforcement.

Reporting: To report violations contact Los Angeles County, Environmental Health Customer Call Center at **(888) 700-9995**. To file a complaint online visit, <https://ehservices.publichealth.lacounty.gov/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=4>.

For additional questions or information, please contact the California Department of Public Health at www.cdph.ca.gov or call 1-833-422-4255.