

2019

BELIZE HEMP REGISTRATION/LICENSE PROCEDURES



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HEMP ACTIVITIES

The following procedures **must** be followed by all persons applying to register or obtain a license for the following industrial hemp activities in Belize:

- a) Operate a facility to process industrial hemp
- b) Cultivate industrial hemp
- c) Import or export industrial hemp seeds
- d) conduct research on industrial hemp
- e) Transportation of hemp (hemp, seed, bud, fiber, oil)

In accordance with the section 54 of the Misuse of Drugs Act Chapter 103 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011 and the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) Act Chapter 211 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011

ACCESS TO APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms (**Schedule 1, II and IV**) and movement permit application are available at the BAHA website (www.baha.org.bz).

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES TO CONDUCT INDUSTRIAL HEMP ACTIVITIES

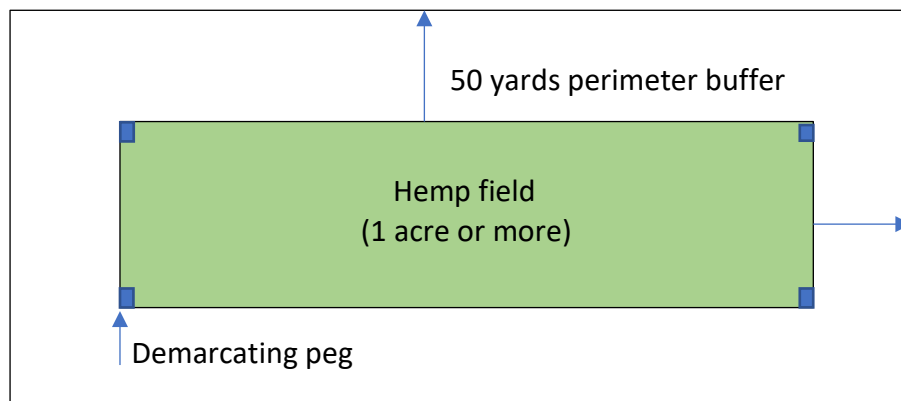
- 1) All applicants must complete application form **Schedule 1 “INDUSTRIAL HEMP REGISTRATION FORM”**
- 2) The other forms are to be completed for the separate target activities if applicable:
 - a. **Schedule II “FIELD/FACILITY REGISTRATION FORM”** (see procedure to complete form)
 - b. **Schedule IV “INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH LICENSE.”** (see procedure to complete form)
 - c. **Application for movement permit**
- 3) All application forms must be signed by the applicant or a legal representative
- 4) The applicant must present:
 - a. A copy of an official identification such as passport or social security card
 - b. Proof of address e.g. utility bill
 - c. Legal right of property (title, lease or rental agreement)
 - d. Company registry certificate (if applicable)
- 5) Submit **(7) seven completed copies** of the applications to the BAHA office located at Corner Forest Drive and Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City, Belize C.A
- 6) The Secretary will review application forms for completeness. *(Incomplete application forms will not be accepted.*
- 5) The application will be submitted to the Hemp Oversight Committee at their next scheduled meeting for review and approval within 60 (sixty) days. During this period:
 - I. The police will conduct a background check on the applicant.
 - II. A field verification visit will be conducted to verify accuracy of information on the application
- 6) If the application is approved/denied by the oversight committee, BAHA will inform the applicant within (7) seven working days of the decision.
- 7) If approved the applicant will be issued an approval letter which shall contain a BAIMS registration number.

APPLYING TO OPERATE A FACILITY TO PROCESS INDUSTRIAL HEMP OR APPLYING TO CULTIVATE INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Steps:

- 1) Complete application form **Schedule 11 “FIELD/FACILITY REGISTRATION FORM”**
 - I. All application forms must be signed by the applicant or a legal representative.
 - II. If applicable, all accompanying certificates, business registration, fire or building authority attestations must accompany the application.
- 2) BAHA along with the Police and Ministry of Agriculture will conduct a field, processing/storage facility verification visit on an agreed date and time. **(see Verification Fee in General Steps)**
 - I. BAHA will verify that the fields to be cultivated with industrial hemp have the following:
 - a. one (1) acre or more in size
 - b. posts demarcating the boundaries of the field
 - c. have the 50 yards perimeter buffer
 - d. is at the specified location (GPS coordinates)

Example of Hemp Field



NOTE: The Police and or BAHA will at any reasonable time during growing, storing and processing period test the hemp products and inspect the area to ensure compliance with the regulations.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH LICENSE

- 1) Complete application form, **Schedule IV “INDUSTRIAL HEMP RESEARCH LICENSE.”**
 - I. All application forms must be signed by the applicant or a legal representative.

- 2) Ensure that a Research Plan is included with submission. The plan should include details of the research to be conducted and may include:
 - I. Objective of the research (variety trials, technological package development, product development, etc.)
 - II. Experimental design
 - III. Methodology
 - IV. The quantity of hemp required
 - V. Area to be utilized.
 - VI. The duration of the research process
 - VII. Any other relevant information required upon request by the committee

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO IMPORT OR EXPORT INDUSTRIAL HEMP SEEDS

Steps:

- 1) **ONLY** registered operators will be allowed to import or export industrial hemp seeds
- 2) The application to import industrial hemp seeds will follow the standard BAHA procedures for importing plant or plant products inclusive of service fees.
- 3) A Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) may be necessary at times to ensure phytosanitary compliance
- 4) All application to import industrial hemp seed will be reviewed by the Plant Health Department and import conditions established. Only industrial hemp seeds of established varieties/cultivars that have a THC content within the prescribed limit will be authorized for importation.
- 5) If permit is approved, it can be picked up any BAHA office.
- 6) Before being approved for release the industrial hemp seeds **must** meet all phytosanitary import requirements as well as having a THC content that satisfies the prescribed limit.

All associated verification costs will be incurred by the importer. **(see Verification Fee in General Steps)**

- 8) Exportation of industrial hemp seeds will be contingent on the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country as well as their prescribed limit for THC
- 9) BAHA will inspect and certify the consignment to ensure that it meets the importing country's phytosanitary requirements and issue a phytosanitary certificate.
- 10) The exporter is responsible to obtain all other permits or licenses that may be required from other agencies as necessary.

*NOTE: After the permit has been issued, the Police and or BAHA may at **any reasonable time during storage test the hemp products and inspect the area to ensure compliance with the regulations.***

HEMP MOVEMENT PERMIT

Steps:

- 1) Only registered hemp operators can apply to transport industrial hemp, seed, bud, fiber or oil
 - 2) An industrial hemp operator wishing to transport industrial hemp must fill out an application form "**application to move industrial hemp**" and submit to BAHA.
 - 3) BAHA will provide a hemp movement permit based in the information in the application form
 - I. The applicant BAIMS registration number **must** be recorded on the movement permit.
 - II. All movement permits must be stamped and signed by BAHA.
 - 4) **Application must also be made to BAHA** for testing THC content in transported industrial hemp products.
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GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1) All registered hemp operators must follow procedures as per the BAHA ACT Chapter 211 of the Substantive Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2011 for the importation of industrial hemp seeds or other regulated hemp products: a Pest Risk Analysis may be necessary for certain hemp products.

- 2) All registered hemp operators must pay to BAHA all service fees as per SI 182 of 2004 relating to services provided for hemp activities.
- 3) **Verification Fees** include mileage at \$1.50 per mile, inspection fee at \$30/hr (regular time) or \$40/hr (overtime).
- 4) All registered hemp operators are required to abide by all provisions of Section 54 of the Misuse Drugs Act, Chapter 103 of the Substantive Laws of Belize revised edition 2011.
- 5) Penalties for offence can result in a fine of \$5,000, confiscation of product and/or closure of facility as per the Misuse of Drugs (Industrial Hemp) regulations, 2019.