



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

BRYAN T. CAFFERELLI | COMMISSIONER

April 5, 2023

From the Office of M. Caitlin S. Anderson
Liquor Control Division Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Caitlin S. Anderson'.

Sale of THC, CBD and Hemp Infused Products at Off-Premise Locations

The Department of Consumer Protection Liquor Control Division is aware of the recent increase in the sale of THC and hemp infused non-alcoholic beverages at package stores and grocery stores. These products are usually marketed as waters, seltzers, sodas, or teas, and are advertised as containing cannabis, hemp, CBD or THC and other THC variants including delta-8 THC. All these ingredients are derivatives or chemical replications of the cannabis (marijuana) plant and may contain chemicals that create psychoactive effects.

Both package stores and grocery stores are allowed to sell non-alcoholic beverages within their permit premises. However, neither premise may sell any beverage that violates Connecticut law. The sale of beverages made using hemp, hemp-derived, or hemp-infused products which exceed a total 0.3% concentration of THC on dry weight basis is prohibited by Connecticut law. This includes delta-7, delta-8, delta-9 and delta-10 and other THC variants. For more information, please view the June 25, 2021 press release about the sale of THC-containing hemp products issued by the Department of Consumer Protection Drug Control Division. (A copy is included with this statement and may also be found at <https://tinyurl.com/3wf5ucav>.)

All businesses operating with a Connecticut-issued liquor permit – retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers alike – are encouraged to carefully review any nonalcoholic beverage containing THC or hemp for compliance with current law. The sale of an illegal product by a permittee may result in unlawful conduct charges before the Liquor Control Commission. As the cannabis industry is rapidly changing, please be advised that the new laws may impact the legality of specific amounts of THC in consumable products, including beverages.

Lastly, the sale of alcoholic beverages containing THC, CBD, and hemp is closely regulated by the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (the “TTB”). In order for any such alcoholic product to be wholesaled in Connecticut, it must contain label approval from the TTB.

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 901 Hartford, CT 06103 | (860) 713-6100

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The Department of Consumer Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Any questions about THC and hemp products sold by liquor permittees can be directed to DCP.Cannabis@ct.gov and DCP.LiquorControl@ct.gov.

The Department of Consumer Protection, through the Liquor Control Commission, oversees all sales of alcoholic beverages in the State of Connecticut. The Department of Consumer Protection, through the Drug Control Division, oversees the sale of cannabis and cannabis-related products.

Department of Consumer Protection Warns Businesses That Selling THC-Containing Hemp Products Is Now Illegal

Delta-8 and other THC's derived from hemp may only be sold by licensed cannabis establishments effective July 1

June 25, 2021 — The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) is warning businesses that, beginning July 1, 2021, they may no longer offer or sell products made using hemp or hemp-derived products with any Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration, including delta-7, delta-8, delta-9 and delta-10.

Senate Bill 1201, [An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Preservation of Adult Use Cannabis](#) (“Act”), signed into law June 22, 2021 and effective July 1, 2021, established an adult use cannabis marketplace and made changes to existing cannabis regulation.

The Act defined cannabis to include hemp products with a total THC concentration that exceeds 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. This definition now includes **delta-7, delta-8, delta-9, and delta-10**. These products may only be sold by a licensed cannabis retailer or medical marijuana dispensary. Delta-8 is known to have psychoactive effects. License applications are not yet available.

“This change stops the exploitation of a loophole in the federal hemp act that resulted in individuals selling unregulated products on the retail market with high delta-8 THC concentrations that have intoxicating effects,” **said DCP Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull**. “Prior to this change, entities were able to sell products in the normal retail market without having to adhere to any testing, packaging, or labeling standards, including childproof packaging standards, or product restrictions prohibiting forms that appeal to children.”

“The creation of a regulated cannabis market will protect and benefit public health and safety by ensuring consumers know exactly what is in the products they are purchasing and preventing children from accessing these products,” **Commissioner Seagull added**. “This change will ensure that hemp products that contain any type of THC that exceeds 0.3 percent on dry weight basis will now be regulated.”

Individuals or entities selling or offering these types of products can no longer sell them if they do not hold a cannabis license and should dispose of these products prior to July 1, 2021

At least [fifteen other states](#) have already taken action to restrict or ban the sale of delta-8 in their marketplaces.

Individuals may contact dcp.cannabis@ct.gov for questions about this change.

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Media Contact:

Kaitlyn Krasselt

kaitlyn.krasselt@ct.gov

(860) 713-6019 (office)

(860) 377-0246 (cell)