

License Types

Massachusetts

We have a variety of license types in Massachusetts. Each is allowed to facilitate specific processes while others are prohibited. Licensees are responsible for activities within their licensed premises and have the same legal responsibilities toward employees, contractors, and visitors as any other business.

Be familiar with your license type to ensure your team is only doing what is permissible at your licensed facility.

Provisional Marijuana Establishment License means a License issued by the Commission confirming that a Marijuana Establishment has completed the application process and satisfied the qualifications for initial licensure.

License means the certificate issued by the Commission that confirms that a Marijuana Establishment or an Independent Testing Laboratory has met all applicable requirements pursuant to St. 2016, c. 334, as amended by St. 2017, c. 55, M.G.L. c. 94G, and 935 CMR 500.000. A Marijuana Establishment or Independent Testing Laboratory may hold a provisional or final License.

Licensee means a person or entity on the application and licensed by the Commission to operate a Marijuana Establishment or Independent Testing Laboratory under St. 2016, c. 334, as amended by St. 2017, c. 55, M.G.L. c. 94G, and 935 CMR 500.000. Any person or entity that solely provides initial capital to establish or operate the establishment and to whom, in return for the initial capital, requires only repayment of the loan and does not have any ownership or direct or indirect authority to control the Marijuana Establishment or Independent Testing Laboratory, will not be a Licensee.

Marijuana Establishment (ME) means a Marijuana Cultivator (Indoor or Outdoor), Craft Marijuana Cooperative, Marijuana Product Manufacturer, Marijuana Microbusiness, Independent Testing Laboratory, Standards Laboratory, Marijuana Retailer, Marijuana Transporter, Delivery Licensee, Marijuana Research Facility Licensee (as defined in 935 CMR 500.002: Marijuana Research Facility Licensee) Social Consumption Establishment (as defined in 935 CMR 500.002: Social Consumption Establishment) or any other type of licensed Marijuana-related business, except a Medical Marijuana Establishment.

Microbusiness means an entity that can be either a Tier 1 Marijuana Cultivator or Marijuana Product Manufacturer or both, in compliance with the operating procedures for each License type as applicable and, if in receipt of a Delivery Endorsement issued by the Commission, may deliver Marijuana or Marijuana Products produced at the licensed location directly to Consumers in compliance with established regulatory requirements for retail sale as it relates to delivery.

Craft Marijuana Cooperative means a Marijuana Cultivator comprised of residents of the Commonwealth and organized as a limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or cooperative corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth. A cooperative is licensed to cultivate, obtain, Manufacture, Process, package, brand and Transfer Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers.

Marijuana Cultivator means an entity licensed to cultivate, Process and package Marijuana, and to Transfer Marijuana to other Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers. A Craft Marijuana Cooperative is a type of Marijuana Cultivator.

Marijuana Product Manufacturer means an entity licensed to obtain, Manufacture, Process and package Marijuana or Marijuana Products and to Transfer these products to other Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers.

Fully Integrated Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (FIMTC), (formerly known as a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) or Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD)), means an entity licensed under 935 CMR 501.101: Application Requirements that acquires, cultivates, possesses, Processes (including development of related products such as Edibles, MIPs, Tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), Repackages, transports, sells, distributes, delivers, dispenses, or administers Marijuana, products containing Marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to Registered Qualifying Patients or their Personal Caregivers for medical use. Unless otherwise specified, FIMTC refers to the site(s) of dispensing, cultivation, and preparation of Marijuana for medical use.

Medical Marijuana Establishment (MME), (formerly known as Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC)) means a Fully Integrated Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, or any other type of licensed medical use of marijuana-related business authorized by the Commission.

Marijuana Retailer means an entity licensed to purchase, Repackage, White Label, and transport and Transfer Marijuana or Marijuana Products to and from Marijuana Establishments and to sell to Consumers. Unless licensed, retailers are prohibited from offering Marijuana or Marijuana Products for the purposes of on-site social consumption on the Premises of a Marijuana Establishment.

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Social Consumption Establishment means an entity licensed to sell Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers for consumption on its Premises and in a Consumption Area approved by the Commission. A Social Consumption Establishment may be either a Supplemental On-site Consumption, a Hospitality On-site Consumption, or a Marijuana Event Organizer Licensee. Social Consumption Establishments may allow Consumption Areas to be Indoor Non-Smoking, Indoor Smoking, Outdoor Non-Smoking or Outdoor Smoking.

Supplemental On-site Consumption means a type of license within the Social Consumption Establishment license classes where an eligible Retailer, Cultivator, Product Manufacturer, Microbusiness, Craft Marijuana Cooperative, Third-party Transporter, Delivery Operator or Courier may sell Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers to consume in a designated Consumption Area within the Marijuana Establishment's Premises.

Hospitality On-site Consumption means a type of license within the Social Consumption Establishment license classes where an eligible applicant or licensee may establish a new business or operate within a Non-Cannabis Entity to sell Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers for consumption within the Social Consumption Establishment's Premises and in designated Consumption Areas.

Marijuana Event Organizer means a type of license within the Social Consumption Establishment license classes where an eligible applicant or Licensee may coordinate Temporary Consumption Events by submitting an Event Plan for approval by the Commission.

Co located Marijuana Operations (CMO) means a Medical Marijuana Establishment operating under a License pursuant to 935 CMR 501.000: Medical Use of Marijuana and a Marijuana Establishment operating under at least one License pursuant to 935 CMR 500.000 on the same Premises. Co located Marijuana Operations pertain to cultivation, product manufacturing, and retail licenses, but not any other adult-use License.

Delivery Endorsement means authorization granted to Licensees in categories of Marijuana Establishments identified by the Commission to perform deliveries directly from the establishment to Consumers.

Delivery License means either a Marijuana Courier License or a Marijuana Delivery Operator License.

Delivery Licensee means either a Marijuana Courier or a Marijuana Delivery Operator authorized to deliver Marijuana and Marijuana Products directly to Consumers and as permitted, Marijuana Couriers to Patients and Caregivers.

Existing Licensee Transporter means an entity that is otherwise licensed by the Commission and also licensed to purchase, obtain, and possess Marijuana or Marijuana Products solely for the purpose of transporting, temporary storage, sale and distribution on behalf of other Marijuana Establishments or Medical Marijuana Establishments to other establishments, but not to Consumers.

Marijuana Courier means an entity licensed to deliver Finished Marijuana Products, Marijuana Accessories and Branded Goods directly to Consumers from a Marijuana Retailer, or directly to Registered Qualifying Patients or Caregivers from a Medical Marijuana Establishments, but is not authorized to sell Marijuana or Marijuana Products directly to Consumers, Registered Qualifying Patients or Caregivers and is not authorized to Wholesale, Warehouse, Process, Repackage, or White Label. A Marijuana Courier is an additional license type under M.G.L. c. 94G, § 4(b)(1) that allows for limited delivery of Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers; and shall not be considered to be a Marijuana Retailer under 935 CMR 500.002 or 500.050 and shall be subject to 935 CMR 500.050(1)(b).

Marijuana Delivery Operator or Delivery Operator means an entity licensed to purchase at Wholesale and Warehouse Finished Marijuana Products acquired from a Marijuana Cultivator, Marijuana Product Manufacturer, Microbusiness or Craft Marijuana Cooperative, and White Label, Repackage, sell and deliver Finished Marijuana Products, Marijuana Accessories and Marijuana Branded Goods directly to Consumers. A Delivery Operator is an additional license type under M.G.L. c. 94G, § 4(b)(1) that allows for limited delivery of Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers; and shall not be considered to be a Marijuana Retailer under 935 CMR 500.002 or 500.050 and shall be subject to 935 CMR 500.050(1)(b).

Marijuana Transporter means an entity that is licensed to possess Marijuana Products solely for the purpose of transporting, temporary storage, sale and distribution to Marijuana Establishments or Medical Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers. Marijuana Transporters may be an Existing Licensee Transporter or Third-party Transporter.

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Independent Testing Laboratory means a laboratory that is licensed or registered by the Commission and is: (a) Currently and validly licensed under 935 CMR 500.101, or formerly and validly registered by the Commission; (b) Accredited to ISO 17025: 2017 or the International Organization for Standardization 17025 by a third-party accrediting body that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Accrediting Cooperation mutual recognition arrangement or that is otherwise approved by the Commission; (c) Independent financially from any Medical Marijuana Establishments, Marijuana Establishment or Licensee; and (d) Qualified to test Marijuana and Marijuana Products, including MIPs, in compliance with M.G.L. c. 94C, § 34; M.G.L c. 94G, § 15; 935 CMR 500.000; 935 CMR 501.000: Medical Use of Marijuana; and Commission protocol(s).

Marijuana Research Facility means the Premises at which a Marijuana Research Facility Licensee is approved to conduct research.

Marijuana Research Facility Licensee or Research Licensee means an academic institution, nonprofit corporation or domestic corporation or entity authorized to do business in the Commonwealth, including a licensed Marijuana Establishment or Medical Marijuana Establishments, that is licensed to conduct research.

Research Permit means a certificate indicating Commission approval to conduct a specified research project over a specified and finite period. To the extent that a Research Licensee is subject to other IRB, institutional, industry, or professional standards, they shall demonstrate compliance with those standards.