



December 19, 2019

Erica Ferrelli
Department of Business Regulation
Office of the Health Insurance
Commissioner

AIHA Comments on Rhode Island Rules and Regulations Related to the Medical Marijuana Program Administered by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Department of Business Regulation

Rule Identifier: 230-RICR-80-05-1

Dear Ms. Ferrelli:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) and its Cannabis Industry Health and Safety Task Force offer the following comments in response to Rhode Island's notice of proposed rulemaking regarding rules and regulations related to the medical marijuana program administered by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Department of Business Regulation.

AIHA is concerned that without the addition of clarifying language, the regulation, as currently proposed, may inadvertently make it challenging for compassion centers and licensed cultivators to ensure a safe and healthy workplace in compliance with all relevant requirements. To help compassion centers and licensed cultivators navigate the complex and sometimes ambiguous statutory requirements that are key to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace, AIHA recommends the following:

Amend Section 1.6.13 (l) "Minimum Sanitation and Workplace Safety Conditions" to read as follows:

Each compassion center and licensed cultivator shall comply with all relevant statutes, regulations, and requirements administered by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), including but not necessarily limited to standards for toxic and flammable compounds and air contaminants. DBR may require licensees to undergo third-party inspections or audits by a qualified individual to ensure compliance with OSHA. A qualified individual is a person who has:

1. A bachelor's degree (or higher) in occupational safety and health or industrial hygiene from an accredited college or university; and either
 - a. is currently a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH); or
 - b. has completed the OSHA #511 Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry that is offered through the OSHA Training Institute or the OSHA Training Institute Education Centers.

Conclusion and Next Steps

AIHA thanks you for the opportunity to comment upon this notice of proposed rulemaking on “Rules and Regulations Related to the Medical Marijuana Program Administered by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Department of Business Regulation”. We look forward to working with you to help achieve our common goals of protecting workers and their communities. For additional information, please contact Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Respectfully,



Kathleen S. Murphy, CIH
President
AIHA

Background on AIHA

AIHA and our members have a reach that extends to millions of people, with solid credibility that is built from 80 years of service to the occupational and environmental health and safety community. Specifically, AIHA has 8,500 members who represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. We maintain 68 active Local Sections, more than 50 volunteer groups and have partnership agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations representing the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. Finally, we have several award-winning publications, a strong social media presence, and host conferences where thought leaders from a variety of industries gather to share new information and answer practical questions on specialized health and safety topics. For additional information, please visit www.aiha.org.