



The Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance is a Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) amendment, adopted by the City Council on December 6, 2017, that establishes location and distancing requirements for commercial cannabis activity within the City.

This ordinance was passed in response to recent changes in State law, as well as Proposition M – a local initiative approved by Los Angeles voters in March 2017. The State of California is preparing to issue licenses for businesses that produce and sell medical and nonmedical (sometimes referred to as “recreational”) cannabis. Proposition M required the City Council to repeal the City’s existing restrictions on medical cannabis businesses and develop a comprehensive regulatory process and structure for all cannabis-related business activity. This ordinance was prepared to provide the necessary regulations to ensure that such activity takes place in appropriate locations.

Summary of Key Provisions

The Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance is one component of a larger regulatory structure governing commercial cannabis activity in the City. This ordinance is limited in scope to restricting the location of specific types of commercial cannabis activity. Other ordinances address the specifics of the application, review/approval process, operating standards, enforcement, and other topics.

Generally, the Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance:

- Allows certain defined commercial cannabis activity to legally operate in the City, provided that it meets the following criteria:
 - Conducted by persons operating under a State license.
 - Licensed by the City’s Department of Cannabis Regulation.
 - In compliance with the location restrictions specified in this ordinance, and any other City regulations.
- Identifies zones where specified types of commercial cannabis activity are eligible to operate.
- Requires that commercial cannabis activity observe specified distances from sensitive sites, as well as from other commercial cannabis retail activity with on-site sales.

Questions & Answers

The information provided here is a summary overview of the ordinance – please refer to the text of the ordinance for its exact provisions. The zones and distance requirements presented here represent eligible locations. To operate legally, cannabis businesses must possess a City and State license.

What is commercial cannabis activity, and how is it different from personal cannabis use?

Commercial cannabis activity includes the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution, testing, transportation, dispensing, or sale of any part of the cannabis plant or of cannabis-derived products, whether for medical or nonmedical (“recreational”) use.

Individuals may, however, purchase, possess, and use small amounts of cannabis for personal use; and cultivate up to six living cannabis plants at a personal residence for personal use. These activities are considered personal use of cannabis and are not affected by the City’s regulations on commercial cannabis activity.

In what zones will different types of commercial cannabis activity be allowed to operate?

The proposed ordinance allows specified types of commercial cannabis activity to legally operate in the City. The types of commercial cannabis activity and zones where commercial cannabis activity may operate are summarized as follows:

- Retail activity (Storefront and Non-storefront) is allowed primarily in commercial and industrial zones: C1, C1.5, C2, C4, C5, CM, M1, M2, and M3.
- Microbusiness¹ activity with on-site retail sales is allowed primarily in industrial zones: M1, M2, and M3. Microbusiness activity with no on-site retail sales is allowed also to locate in the MR1 and MR2 Zones.
- Indoor cultivation and “Level 1”² manufacturing activity is allowed primarily in industrial zones: MR1, M1, MR2, M2, and M3.
- Outdoor and mixed-light (i.e., greenhouse) cultivation are not allowed in any zone.
- “Level 2”³ manufacturing activity is allowed primarily in industrial zones: MR2, M2, and M3.
- Distribution activity is allowed primarily in industrial zones: MR1, M1, MR2, M2, and M3.
- Testing activity is allowed primarily in industrial zones: CM, MR1, M1, MR2, M2, and M3.

¹ A microbusiness license allows a business to engage in at least three of the following: cultivation (less than 10,000 square feet), distribution, manufacturing (Level 1, Type 6), distribution, and retail.

² Level 1 cannabis manufacturing, as defined in State law, manufactures cannabis products using only nonvolatile solvents, or no solvents.

³ Level 2 cannabis manufacturing, as defined in State law, manufactures cannabis products using volatile solvents.

Are there certain geographic areas where commercial cannabis activity will be prohibited?

Properties located within the Alameda District, LAX, Port of Los Angeles, and Paramount Pictures (Main Lot) Specific Plans are not eligible locations for commercial cannabis activity.

What distancing requirements must commercial cannabis activity observe?

The draft ordinance includes the following specified distancing requirements for commercial cannabis activity:

- Non-storefront retail and non-retail activity [includes cultivation, manufacturing (Level 1 & Level 2), testing, distribution, microbusiness with delivery-only retail or without retail, and delivery-only retail]: 600 feet from schools.
- Manufacturing (Level 2, use of volatile solvents): 200 feet from residential zones.
- Storefront retail and microbusiness activity with on-site sales: 700 feet from schools, day care centers, alcoholism/drug rehabilitation or treatment facilities, permanent supportive housing, public libraries, public parks, "OS" Open Space-zoned properties, and other cannabis retail and microbusiness activity with on-site sales.

What about existing medical marijuana dispensaries?

Existing medical marijuana dispensaries in compliance with the provisions of Proposition D may continue to operate in their current location until December 31, 2022, as long as they apply for a City license within 60 days of applications being made available and they do not expand their physical size.

Additional Information**What other regulations apply to commercial cannabis activity in the City?**

Commercial cannabis activity must be licensed by the Department of Cannabis Regulation. The licensing program will be governed by the [Cannabis Procedures Ordinance](#) and the [Cannabis Rules and Regulations Ordinance](#).

How can I apply for a license to engage in commercial cannabis activity in the City?

The Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) will administer the City's cannabis licensing program. At the time of this writing, DCR was not yet accepting license applications. The City will make an announcement when applications become available.

How can I get more information?

[Click here](#) for the full text of the Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance, or go to <http://planning.lacity.org>. For questions regarding the ordinance, please contact Niall Huffman, niall.huffman@lacity.org, 213-978-3405.