

HEMP PROGRAM- Grower Registration FAQ

Registering to Grow Hemp under the Vermont Hemp Production Plan

The Vermont Hemp Program received USDA approval of its State Plan on December 22, 2021. Under the USDA approved state plan, a person must register with the Hemp program if the intent is to grow, cultivate or process hemp in the state of Vermont. Grower applicants must register with the Vermont Hemp Program before purchasing seed, growing, or processing hemp. Applications can be submitted online using the Vermont Hemp Program registration and compliance portal, which can be found at hemp.vermont.gov. A person registered to grow, or grow and process hemp for floral material production, viable seed, or cannabinoids shall not grow more acres of hemp per year than the amount identified in the registration without first notifying the Agency and paying an additional registration fee, if necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is a grower?

- A person who is registered with the Agency to produce hemp crops.
- Growing includes planting, cultivating, harvesting, and drying, and includes selling, storing, and transporting hemp crops grown by the registered grower.
- A person who dries and/or stores another registrant's hemp crop is a processor.

Does a grower need to submit a criminal history report as part of the application process?

- Grower's must obtain and submit a criminal history report to the Hemp Program as part of the application process, on an annual basis.
- Criminal history reports must be dated within 60 days of the Hemp Program registration application submission.
- Criminal history reports are obtained through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Growers can learn how to obtain and submit a criminal history report here: [Criminal History Records](#)

- This requirement does not apply to processor *only* registrants.

What is a personal use registration, and what is required of personal use registrants under the Vermont Hemp Production Plan?

- A personal use registration allows cultivation of hemp for personal use, only. The cost to register for personal use is \$25.00.
- A personal use cultivation area is limited to less than 0.5 acres.
- Hemp crops produced under a personal use registration are not allowed to enter commerce.
- Personal use registrants are not required to register as a processor to process their own crops and can use the services of registered processors to process their personal cultivation.
- Personal use registrants are required to obtain and submit criminal history reports to the Hemp Program.
- Personal use registrants are required to report hemp crop acreage to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Can a person register as both a commercial

hemp grower and processor? How are fees calculated?

- Yes, a person can register as both a commercial grower and processor on the same application form. There are three categories of commercial production:
 1. grain/fiber- flat fee;
 2. floral, viable seed or cannabinoid production- tiered fee based on the greater of the number of acres planted or the weight of hemp or viable seed processed; and
 3. indoor cultivation and processing of floral, viable seed or cannabinoids – tiered fee based on size of cultivation area.

Does a person need to register with the Vermont Hemp Program if still in possession of last year's crop, but does not intend on growing in the future?

- Yes, a person who is in possession of a crop they grew in a prior year but is not growing in a current year must register with the Vermont Hemp Program for the storage of the crop.
- The fee is based on how many pounds in dry weight the person has in their possession.

What does it mean to grow and process "exclusively within an indoor facility" mean?

- This means bringing hemp crops to flower under lights or other artificial conditions, with the intention of continuously harvesting throughout the year, and processing that crop.
- A person who brings plants to flower indoors with the intention of harvesting continuously throughout the year must register for indoor cultivation.
- Exclusively indoor cultivation

does not include hemp seedlings/clones started in a greenhouse or under artificial conditions with the intention of moving the plants outdoors.

- A person who brings plants to flower in a greenhouse, who relies on the length of daylight hours to bring plants to flower does not have to register as an exclusively indoor growing operation.

Is a processor registration required to harvest, trim, or provide a fee for service at a location covered by an existing registration, or to transport hemp crops for a registrant?

- No. If a person is providing a fee for service covered by another's registration such as transporting hemp crops, or harvesting, bucking or trimming at a registered location, the business providing the service does not need to register.
- Registration of a location is required when the service being provided is not at a registered location. For instance, when the fee for service offered is storage or drying of hemp crops off the site of registrant.
- If a service provider is paid in any quantity of hemp crops for provision of services, and the service provider then processes that crop for commercial market, the service provider must register as a processor.