



**Agricultural Marketing
Authority**
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN ZIMBABWE



INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE PLANTS ON THE PLANET AND CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO DIFFERENT PRODUCTS. ITS MARKET IS ALSO ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IN THE WORLD. IN ZIMBABWE, THE CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP WAS LEGALIZED IN 2020. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CROP.

WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL HEMP?

It is the plant cannabis sativa with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level of not more than 0.3%.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND MEDICINAL CANNABIS?

The difference between the two is that Industrial Hemp has less than 0.3% THC while medicinal cannabis THC concentrations can be more than 0.3%.

NB. All licensing for medicinal cannabis, refer to Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (EMCAZ). Does Industrial Hemp have medicinal properties? Yes, it is high in cannabidiol (CBD) which has many medicinal properties that are beneficial.

What are some of the uses of industrial hemp?

Industrial Hemp can be grown for seed/fiber or for CBD. There are numerous uses for industrial hemp. They include manufacturing of paper products, molded plastics, textiles, construction materials, body care products, biofuel, and floral products (CBD extracts)

Does smoking hemp get you high?

No. With less than 0.3% THC there is no significant mind-altering effect.

Is growing industrial hemp legal in Zimbabwe?

Yes, it was legalized in July 2020 under Statutory Instrument 218 of 2020 Agricultural Marketing Authority (Industrial Hemp) Regulations.

What are the types of permits that are issued under Statutory Instrument 218 of 2020?

Cultivator Permit
Research and breeding permit
Merchant permit

What are the basic requirements for a permit?

The conditions for getting a permit are

1. Obtaining a Police clearance for all the company directors and/or individuals involved in the industrial hemp project.
2. Copies of CR6, CR14, identity documents of directors and individuals involved in the project (all certified), site plan of the intended cultivation area with geo-coordinates.
3. Completing the AMA registration form.
4. Paying inspection fee (USD200) to the Department of Research and Specialist Services at the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement.
5. Payment of the relevant application fee and submission of documents to the Agricultural Marketing Authority.

Where can I get an application form?

You can download the form from Agricultural Marketing Authority website www.ama.co.zw.

How much does a permit cost?

Application fee for a permit to cultivate industrial hemp is USD200 and the renewal application fee is USD200
Application fee for a permit to conduct research on industrial hemp is USD200 and the renewal application fee is USD200.
Application fee for a merchant permit is USD500 and the renewal application fee is USD500.

NB. All fees are also payable in RTOS at the prevailing auction rate.

What is the validity period of the permits?

The cultivator permit is valid for one year.
The research and breeding permit is valid for three years.
The merchant permit is valid for one year.

How long does the permit application process take if all requirements have been met?

The permit is issued within 72 hours from day of submission of the application and required documentation.

On what grounds can a permit be refused?

There are several grounds on which a permit can be denied. The most common ones are lack of capacity to invest in the project, submitting misleading information, availability of official information on involvement in the drug business by the applicant and applicant refusal to allow a requested inspection.

What are the specific security measures required?

The cultivation area must be able to prevent unauthorized access and be monitored all the time by personnel who determines steps to be taken in the event of an intrusion by unauthorized persons. In addition, access to cultivation area should be restricted to persons whose presence there is required by their work responsibilities.

Where is the market for industrial hemp?

At the moment, industrial hemp is being grown for export market. The main markets now are European Union, Australia and UK. The Agricultural Marketing Authority in partnership with relevant stakeholders is working on ensuring that there is establishment of extraction facilities and value addition of the crop.

What are the market prices for hemp?

Market prices for hemp grown for CBD range between US\$30-\$50 per kg. of biomass. Each plant will yield about 500 grams that can be used to source CBD, and with between 3,000 - 4,000 plants per hectare, a farmer can get an upwards of US\$40,000 per hectare of hemp. For a liter of CBD oil (90 percent concentration), prices are between US\$900-\$1300 per liter of CBD oil.

Disclaimer: Please be advised that this material has been developed as a guide only to enhance public access to information about industrial hemp production. Some details on markets and market prices must be verified independently.

For more information on industrial hemp regulations, read Statutory Instrument 218 of 2020 available on www.ama.co.zw or contact AMA Research and Knowledge Management Department through the following number (0242)308662-4 extension 117 or by email info@ama.co.zw.