



Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Christopher Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Frequently Asked Questions: INDUSTRIAL HEMP TULARE COUNTY PROCESS

Q: What are the steps to grow Industrial Hemp in Tulare County?

A: First complete the appropriate registration form(s) from the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA). There are separate registrations forms for growers and seed breeders cultivating Industrial Hemp. You can obtain the CDFA registration forms at the following link: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/industrialhemp/>

Then complete the Tulare County permit application form. There are separate registrations forms for growers and seed breeders cultivating Industrial Hemp.

You must provide the completed CDFA registration form and Tulare County permit form to the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer at 4437 S. Laspina Suite A, Tulare, CA 93274. A payment of \$900 for each CDFA registration form is required at the time of the application submittal. If you are both a grower and a seed breeder, you must submit a fee of \$1800.

Q: How do I pay for my CDFA Registration & Tulare County Permit?

A: For CDFA Registration all payments must be made to “CDFA Cashier” in the forms of check, or money order and be submitted to the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers Office. No cash will be accepted for CDFA registrations.

Permit fees apply at the time of application. Additional fees for the Tulare County Permit will be invoiced based upon any work required to confirm compliance with the Industrial Hemp Laws, Regulations and Ordinances. The fees charged will be determined by inspector hour and vehicle mileage. Tulare County permit payments can be in cash, check, money order or card (card payment will incur a fee dependent on the amount paid). Checks and money orders must be made out to “Tulare County Ag Comm”.

NO ONLINE PAYMENT IS AVAILABLE



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Q: What information is required for my applications? (Tulare County permit and CDFA registration)

A: For CDFA Registration requirements visit <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/industrialhemp/>

Tulare County Permit requirements are in addition to the CDFA requirements and are as follows:

1. Applicant shall be the owner property, or provide written consent in a notarized form acceptable to the Agricultural Commissioner, from the owner granting permission for the cultivation of Industrial Hemp on the specified parcel(s).
2. If you are not the owner of the property a deposit in the form of cash, check or money order is required to cultivate Industrial Hemp to cover abatement in case of abandonment. The amount of the deposit is \$1,000 per cultivar+\$100 per acre.
3. Parcel Number of Property
4. Tulare County Zone Designation
5. Map Showing applicable setbacks(for outdoor cultivation) and cultivar locations for each site
 - a. The following setback apply for outdoor cultivation.
 - i. 50 feet from any boundary line of the parcel, unless the boundary line is adjacent to a parcel that is either owned, managed, or otherwise under the control of the person who obtained the permit for the Cultivation of Industrial Hemp.
 - ii. One-quarter mile from any Urban Development (City, any urban development boundary, any municipal or County park, any church, or any school).
 - iii. 200 feet from any residence not owned by the grower.

Q: Do I need to provide a Criminal History Report and How do I obtain one?

All Key Participants, as defined in [3CCR 4902 \(a\)\(2\)](#), must obtain a Criminal History Report for industrial hemp registration. This includes the person signing and applying for the CDFA Registration and Tulare County Permit.

You can obtain the Criminal History Report from the FBI Identity History Summary Report at the following link: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>



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Q: I have submitted my applications. Can I start planting?

A: No. All application are subject to review and approval by the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer. When the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer determines that your registration is approved, a letter with your proof of registration will be mailed to you. You can start planting on May 7, 2020 or later, but by no means can you plant any earlier than May 7, 2020

Q: I am an Established Agricultural Research Institution, am I still required to obtain a Permit in Tulare County?

A: Yes. As of now, you are not required to register with CDFA, but Tulare County requires all Persons, including Established Agricultural Research Institutions, to obtain a permit to cultivate Industrial Hemp in the unincorporated areas of Tulare County.

Established Agricultural Research Institutions will be required to register with CDFA after USDA approves a state plan relating to Industrial Hemp.

Q: I would like to process Industrial Hemp in Tulare County do I need a permit or registration?

A: CDFA registration is not required, but Tulare County requires all processor in Tulare County to be permitted. After obtaining the permit with Tulare County Agricultural Commissioners, Processors must also obtain a Special Use Permit outlined in the Tulare County Zoning Ordinance.