

NATICK BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION

CHAPTER 28:

THE SANITARY AND SAFE OPERATION OF ADULT-USE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND THE SALE OF ADULT-USE MARIJUANA

A. Statement of Purpose and Authority:

“The purpose of this regulation is to protect the public health and welfare by ensuring local oversight and inspection of Adult Use Marijuana Establishments by the Board of Health consistent with the authority given to municipalities under Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017 and 935 CMR 500.000” and promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Natick Board Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31.

Druzil et al v. Board of Health Haverhill, 324 Mass. 129 (1949)

B. Definitions:

Unless otherwise indicated, terms used throughout this regulation shall be defined as they are in 935 CMR 500.000 and General Law Chapter c. 94G, ss1. In addition, for the purposes of this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Adult-Only Retail Tobacco Store: An establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale but not for resale, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products or offer of services is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the minimum legal age is prohibited at all times, and which maintains a valid permit for the retail sale of tobacco products as required by the Town of Natick Board of Health.

Board of Health: Town of Natick Board of Health and its designated Board of Health Agents.

Board of Health Agent: The Director of Public Health and any town employee designated by the Board of Health, which may include Health Department staff, law enforcement officers, fire officials and code enforcement officers.

Business Agent: An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any adult-use marijuana establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

Edible Marijuana Products: A marijuana product that is to be consumed by humans by eating or drinking and is sold or made by a facility licensed as a Marijuana Establishment under 935 CMR 500.000 and or 935 CMR 501.000.

Marijuana: All parts of any plant of the genus cannabis, not excepted below, and whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; and resin extracted from any part of the plant; clones of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin including tetrahydrocannabinol as defined in section 1 of chapter 94G of the General Laws.

“Marijuana” shall not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant or sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination; hemp; or the weight of any other ingredient combined with adult-use marijuana to prepare topical or oral administration, food, drink or other products.

Marijuana Accessories: Equipment, products, devices or materials of any kind that are intended or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing adult-use marijuana into the human body.

Marijuana Establishment: Any type of marijuana-related business licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission pursuant to 935 CMR 500.050, including a marijuana cultivator, craft marijuana cooperative, marijuana product manufacture, independent testing laboratory, marijuana retailer, marijuana research facilities, marijuana transporter, marijuana micro-business.

Marijuana Products: Products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR): Under G.L c. 128, ss116 – 123 MDAR is the designated regulatory authority for the growing of Hemp for commercial purposes.

Operating Permit Holder: Any person engaged in the cultivation, sale distribution or transportation of marijuana who applies for and receives an operating permit, or any person, or his or her business agent who is required to apply for an operating permit pursuant to these regulations.

Minimum Legal Sales Age: The age an individual must be before that individual can be sold a marijuana product in the municipality.

Person: Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, including, but not limited to an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any establishment, business, cultivation property or retail store.

Self-Service Display: Any display from which customers may select marijuana or a marijuana-infused product without assistance from an establishment.

Vending Machine: Any automated or mechanical self-service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses or makes adult-use marijuana products.

C. Marijuana Sales to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age Prohibited:

1. No person shall sell marijuana or permit marijuana, as defined herein, to be sold to a person under the minimum legal sales age; or give marijuana, marijuana products, or as defined herein, to a person under the minimum legal sales age. The minimum legal sales age in the Town of Natick is twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. Each person selling or distributing marijuana, marijuana products, or as defined herein, shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of a valid government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth and showing that the purchaser is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
3. All retail sales of marijuana, marijuana products, or as defined herein shall be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer and occur at the permitted location unless and until delivery of marijuana is authorized and licensed under the state regulation and then, in strict compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as well as the age limitation set forth herein.
4. No person shall sell marijuana accessory or permit marijuana accessory, as defined herein, to a person under the minimum legal sales age; or give marijuana products as defined herein, to a person under the minimum legal sales age.

D. Marijuana Operating Permit:

1. No person shall sell, cultivate, or deliver or otherwise commercially distribute marijuana or marijuana products, as defined herein, within the Town of Natick without first obtaining a Marijuana Operating Permit issued annually by the Natick Board of Health. Only owners of establishments with a permanent, non-mobile location in the Town of Natick are eligible to apply for an operating permit at the specific location in the Town of Natick and must meet the following application requirements:

- a. All applicants shall certify that they have obtained and are in compliance with all local and state laws, regulations, bylaws, including proof of a current license with the CNB and be prepared to show proof if requested.
 - b. A marijuana delivery-only establishment, if authorized and licensed under state regulation, shall not be required to have a permanent non-mobile location but shall have an in-state permanent business office address and contact information available. Upon request, the establishment must share information about the current location and destination of its employees with the Natick Board of Health.
2. No person shall gift marijuana or marijuana products to a consumer contingent upon the sale of any other products.
3. No person shall accept or redeem, offer to accept or redeem, or cause or hire any person to accept or redeem or offer to accept or redeem any coupon that provides marijuana or a marijuana product without charge.
4. As part of the Marijuana Operating Permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Town of Natick regulation. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read this regulation and that the applicant is responsible for instructing all employees who will be responsible for marijuana sales about federal, state and local laws regarding the sale of marijuana, including this regulation.
5. A separate Marijuana Operating Permit, displayed conspicuously, is required for each Marijuana Establishment.
6. A Marijuana Operating Permit is non-transferable. Each new owner of a Marijuana Establishment must apply for a new permit.
7. Issuance of a Marijuana Operating Permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to periodic inspections of the Marijuana Establishment, including any off-site location within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, where business is conducted relating to the manufacture or sale of marijuana at the Marijuana Establishment.
8. A Marijuana Operating Permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has failed to pay fines issued and the time to appeal the fines has expired without an appeal having been filed and/or the permit holder has not satisfied any outstanding permit suspensions. If a violation was enforced by non-criminal dispositions, any appeal shall be taken pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, ss21D.

9. A Marijuana Operating Permit may be subject to non-renewal if the establishment has sold or otherwise supplied marijuana or a marijuana product to any person under the minimum legal sales age two times within the previous permit year and either the time to appeal has expired without an appeal having been filed or the appeals were unsuccessful. The permit holder may request a hearing pursuant to this regulation prior to non-renewal. Hearing will be pursuant to Section K of this regulation.
10. No person under the minimum legal sales age shall be permitted to enter an establishment with a Marijuana Operating Permit except if the establishment is co-located with a medical marijuana treatment center as defined in 935 CMR 500.002, those individuals in possession of a registration card demonstrating that the individual is a registered qualifying patient with the Medical Use of Marijuana Program and is in compliance with CMR 501.000
11. A retail marijuana establishment shall sell primarily marijuana, edible marijuana products and marijuana accessories. The sale of other products must be merely incidental. A retail marijuana establishment is prohibited from holding a tobacco sales permit, retail or wholesale food permit, or a license that permits the sale or distribution of any alcoholic beverage in any form.
12. All Marijuana Operating Permits expire annually on December thirty-first (31st). No permit renewal will be denied based on the requirements of this subsection except any permit holder who fails to renew his or her permit within thirty (30) days of expiration will be treated as a first-time permit applicant.

E. Incorporation of 105 CMR 500.000 and 105 CMR 590.000:

The manufacturing of all edible marijuana products shall be conducted in a state-licensed marijuana manufacturing facility and in accordance with all applicable state regulations. All Marijuana Establishments, including those that develop or process edible products, shall comply with the sanitary requirements in 105 CMR 500.000, "Good Manufacturing Practices for Food". All edible products shall be prepared, handled and stored in compliance with the sanitation requirements in 590.000: Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments.

F. Out-of-Package Sales:

The sale or distribution of edible marijuana products in any form other than an original factory-wrapped package is prohibited, including the repackaging and sale of an edible marijuana product for retail sale.

G. Self-Service Displays:

All self-service displays of marijuana products are prohibited.

H. Vending Machines:

All vending machines containing marijuana products are prohibited.

I. Marijuana Accessories:

Marijuana accessories, as defined herein, shall only be sold in marijuana establishments and adult-only tobacco stores.

J. Compliance with All Laws:

1. All cultivation, processing, manufacturing, delivery, sale and use of marijuana shall be conducted in compliance with all state and local laws, ordinances, regulations, by-laws or policies. These shall include, where applicable but not limited to, compliance with Chapter 344 of the Acts of 2016, as amended by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, 935 CMR 500.000, secondhand smoke laws and regulations, electronic cigarette laws and regulations, nuisance laws and regulations and all requirements associated with zoning and other local permitting.
2. Violation of any such laws, not including federal laws relating to marijuana, shall constitute a violation of this regulation and be subject to the fines and penalties described herein. Nothing in this regulation give any immunity under federal law or poses an obstacle to federal enforcement of federal law.
3. A marijuana establishment shall submit a security plan for review and approval by the Natick Police Department detailing all security measures taken to ensure patient, consumer and community safety and eliminate unauthorized access to the premises prior to the Natick Board of Health issuance of a Marijuana Operating Permit.
4. The Natick Board of Health, in consultation with the Natick Police Department, and other Natick officials and departments may set limitations on the hours of operation of any marijuana establishment.
5. The Natick Board of Health may require the distribution of additional educational materials in marijuana establishments.

K. Fee Schedule:

Marijuana Operating Permit
\$500, annually

Expiration date: December 31st

Plan Review & Initial Marijuana Operating Permit
\$1000

L. Enforcement and Penalties:

1. Authority to inspect marijuana establishments for compliance and to enforce this regulation shall be held by the Natick Board of Health, its designees, and the Natick Police Department.
2. Any person may register a complaint pursuant to this regulation to initiate an investigation and enforcement with the Natick Board of Health and its designees. Compliance inspections shall be conducted at a minimum of two (2) times annually.
3. Any fines or fees collected pursuant to this regulation shall be used for the administration and enforcement of this regulation and/or for any activities incidental to this regulation related to the operation of marijuana establishments or the sale and use of marijuana.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the Marijuana Operating Permit holder and/or business agent to ensure compliance with all applicable sections of this regulation.
5. Any permit holder or any person or entity charged with violation of any provision of this regulation shall receive a notice of violation from the Natick Board of Health or its designated agent. Unless an appeal of such violation is waived by the permit holder or any person or entity charged, the Board of Health shall conduct a hearing to determine the facts of the violation, the appropriate corrective actions, the terms of suspension, if any, and/or issue a permit revocation order.
6. Prior to issuing any suspension or revocation, the Natick Board of Health shall provide notice to the permit holder of the intent to suspend or revoke a permit, which notice shall contain the reasons therefor and establish a time and date for a hearing, which shall be no earlier than seven (7) days but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of said notice. The permit holder shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision and the reasons therefor in writing. After the hearing, the Natick Board of Health may suspend or revoke the permit if the Board of Health finds that a violation of this regulation did occur.
7. Alternately, violations of this regulation may be enforced by non-criminal method of disposition as provided in M.G.L. c. 40 ss. 21D and as enabled pursuant to the Town of Natick By-Laws.

8. Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

M. Variances:

1. A variance from this regulation may be requested in writing to the Natick Board of Health. A variance may be granted by the Town of Natick Board of Health after a hearing at which time the applicant establishes the following:
 - a. Strict enforcement of this regulation would do manifest injustice; and
 - b. The granting of a variance shall not in any way impair the public health and safety or the environment.
2. The Board of Health may impose any conditions, safeguards and other limitations on a variance when it deems it appropriate to protect the public health and safety or the environment.

N. Severability:

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable, all other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall be in full force and effect.

O. Effective Date:

This regulation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Board of Health.

Donald J. Breda, PE, Chairman

Ian L. Wong, MSPH, Vice Chairman

Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Clerk

Dated: _____

