



SIA GUIDE TO CANNABIS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

A State-by-State Guide to
Requirements and Standards
for Authorized Marijuana
Establishments

Updated September 2021



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FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Marijuana, also known as cannabis, is not federally regulated because at the federal level marijuana is still considered illegal; however, regulations have been established in the last few years that have allowed for certain cannabis product use (as of September 2021).

With the increase in state recreational and medical legislation, the federal government's attitude on marijuana could change in the coming years. The passing of the 2018 Farm Bill descheduled some cannabis products from the Controlled Substances Act for the first time, but according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, while the law expands the potential for hemp production, it does not create a system in which producers can grow hemp as freely as other crops. The bill outlined actions that would be considered violations of the law, such as producing a plant with higher than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content or cultivating hemp without a license.



RECENT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

[The Rohrabacher–Farr Amendment \(2014\)](#) passed the U.S. House of Representatives and was signed into law. Requiring annual renewal, this amendment prohibits the U.S. Department of Justice from interfering with the implementation of state medical cannabis laws.

[The 2018 Farm Bill](#) legalizes low-THC hemp nationwide and effectively deschedules hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) from the Controlled Substances Act.

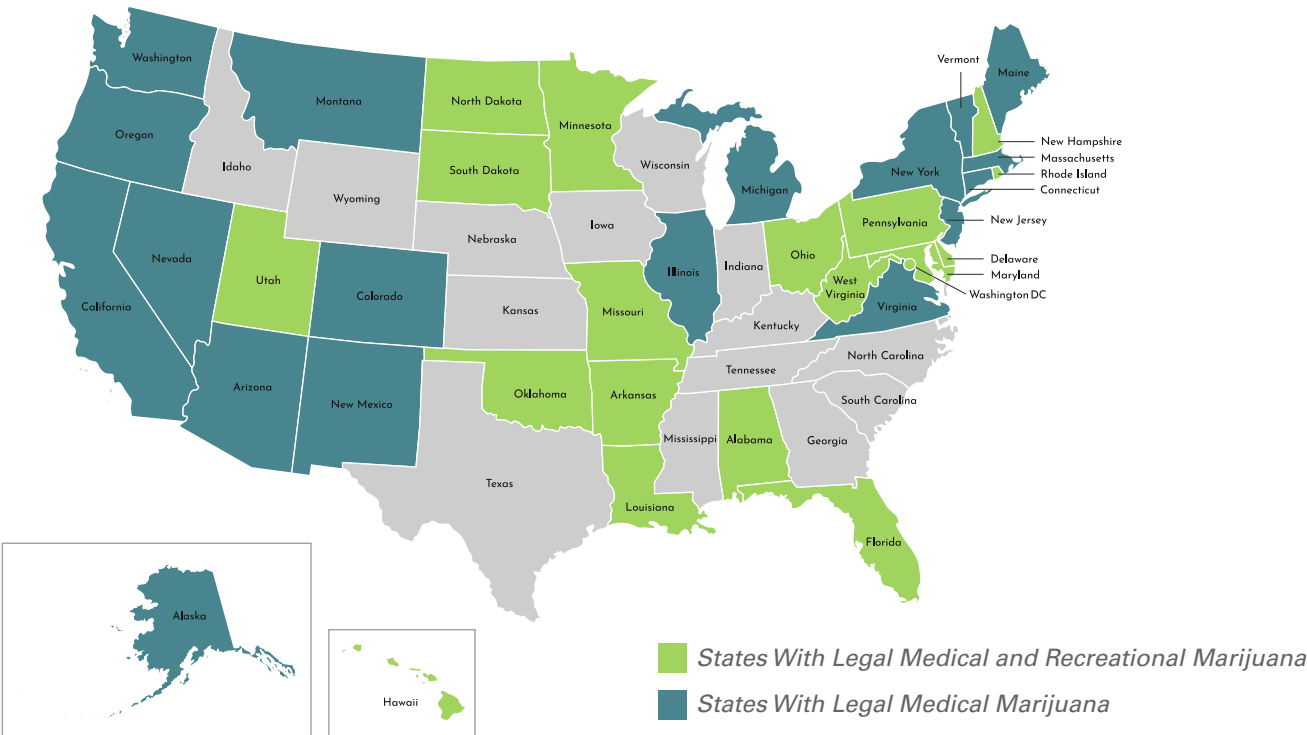
INTRODUCTION

The Security Industry Association (SIA) is pleased to introduce the SIA Guide to Cannabis Security Requirements for SIA members, their clients and our organizational partners in response to the need for more centralized information regarding the state-by-state security requirements in the cannabis industry where applicable.

As we aim to continually update and improve the information provided in this resource, we encourage you to reach out to our staff with any feedback or additional information you may have.



States Where Marijuana Is Legal and Recreational



Source: <https://marijuana.procon.org/legal-recreational-marijuana-states-and-dc/>

Alaska, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington have adopted the most expansive laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Correspondingly, in the November 2020 elections, Arizona, Montana, New Jersey and South Dakota (currently pending court proceedings) legalized the recreational use of cannabis through ballot measures. Additionally, during the 2021 legislative cycle, Connecticut, New York and Virginia enacted legislation that legalized the use and sales of recreational cannabis. Further states such as Pennsylvania may also join in the so-called “Green Wave” during the 2022 legislative cycle.

So far, states which have passed such laws allow for adults ages 21 and over to grow and possess small amounts of cannabis. Some other state laws similarly decriminalized marijuana but did not initially legalize retail sales.

Most other states allow for limited use of medical marijuana under certain circumstances. Some medical marijuana laws are broader than others,

with types of medical conditions that allow for treatment varying from state to state.

The map and table above show current state laws and recently approved ballot measures legalizing marijuana for medical or recreational purposes. States with limited medical marijuana laws, such as those only permitting use of CBD oil, are not considered to have adopted broad medical marijuana laws. Note that some states have also decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana, but that does not necessarily mean they have legalized sales.

| State | Legal Status | Medicinal | Decriminalized |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Alabama | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Alaska | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Arizona | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Arkansas | Mixed | Yes | No |
| California | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Colorado | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Connecticut | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Delaware | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| District of Columbia | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Florida | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Georgia | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Hawaii | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Idaho | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Illinois | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Indiana | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Iowa | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Kansas | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Kentucky | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Louisiana | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Maine | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Maryland | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Massachusetts | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Michigan | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Minnesota | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Mississippi | Fully illegal | No | Yes |
| Missouri | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Montana | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Nebraska | Fully illegal | No | Yes |
| Nevada | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| New Hampshire | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| New Jersey | Mixed | Yes | No |
| New Mexico | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| New York | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| North Carolina | Fully illegal | No | Yes |

| State | Legal Status | Medicinal | Decriminalized |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| North Dakota | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Ohio | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| Oklahoma | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Oregon | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Pennsylvania | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Rhode Island | Mixed | Yes | Yes |
| South Carolina | Fully illegal | No | No |
| South Dakota | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Tennessee | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Texas | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Utah | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Vermont | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| Virginia | Mixed | CBD oil only | No |
| Washington | Fully legal | Yes | Yes |
| West Virginia | Mixed | Yes | No |
| Wisconsin | Fully illegal | No | No |
| Wyoming | Fully illegal | No | No |

Legislation regarding the lawful use and sale of marijuana or cannabis products has only been at the state level, with several states in the U.S. still prohibiting the sale of products either for recreational or medical use. Of the states that have legislated and legalized marijuana or cannabis products they have been accompanied by comprehensive security regulations that vary by jurisdiction. These security regulations vary from state but focus on three common security requirements:

Video Surveillance

Marijuana or cannabis licensed establishments are always mandated to have video surveillance systems in place. Some states stipulate that video quality must be at least 1280x720 pixels, with Michigan and other states specifying a minimum of 720p resolution. Cameras must be functional and unobstructed and are required universally in any areas where marijuana or cannabis is handled. Additionally, some states require 24-hour surveillance, or while the establishment is in times of operation. Almost all states mandate that marijuana establishments must have adequate monitoring and storage of video surveillance recordings with 30- to 40-day backups. Congruently, security personnel must be able to access the footage in case of a criminal act, violation and/or loss prevention.

Access Control

Marijuana or cannabis establishments in all states are mandated to have sufficient and effective security equipment and safety measures to stop, avert and/or deter loss prevention by individuals who are not authorized to be in in any area with

cannabis or marijuana products. Furthermore, such establishments and businesses in most states are required to have commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises. Fencing may also be required at cultivation facilities, and all employees and authorized individuals must have adequate identification credentials necessary while in areas with cannabis or marijuana products.

Alarm Systems

All states that have passed legislation legalizing the sale of recreational and or medical marijuana or cannabis products require such an establishment to have a functional alarm system and sometimes a backup or secondary system as well, such as Massachusetts. These alarm systems must be able to alert the authorized security personnel (i.e., law enforcement) in case there is an instance of unauthorized individuals trying to gain access into a facility. Accompanied with access triggers for alerting the proper authorities, there should also be panic alarms so marijuana or cannabis establishment employees may alert the authorities if there is a criminal act occurring.

Furthermore, there are a few more focused areas where states have either mandated, allowed or left up to business sector, such as whether a marijuana or cannabis establishment should have security personnel during the hours of operation. Most states leave the issue of private security up to the establishment, while Oregon allows and recommends each establishment to utilize security personnel. [More information on other state security measures and requirements can be found here.](#)



Below are highlights from state-specific mandatory security requirements for marijuana establishments across the key areas of video surveillance, access control, alarm systems and security personnel. Text directly from regulations is italicized.

Alaska

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Must be constantly recording |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises. |
| Alarm System | A security alarm system on all exterior doors and windows; panic alarms if applicable |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Alaska Marijuana Regulations |

Alaska’s [3 AAC 306](#) act, along with subsequent laws, permits the use of both medical and recreational marijuana. More information on requirements and regulations can be accessed on [Alaska’s Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office website](#), including supplemental application documents for marijuana cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, retail stores, marijuana handler permits and more.

The licensed premises of a marijuana establishment must have:

- Exterior lighting to facilitate surveillance
- A security alarm system on all exterior doors and windows
- Continuous video monitoring of:
 - a. Each restricted access area and each entrance to a restricted access area within the licensed premises
 - b. Each entrance to the exterior of the licensed premises
 - c. Each point-of-sale area
 - d. Any area where marijuana is grown, cured or manufactured or where marijuana waste is destroyed.

Surveillance recording equipment and video surveillance records must be housed in a locked and secure area or in a lock box, cabinet, closet

or other secure area that is accessible only to a marijuana establishment licensee or authorized employee and to law enforcement personnel, including a peace officer or an agent of the board. A marijuana establishment may use an offsite monitoring service and offsite storage of video surveillance records if security requirements at the offsite facility are at least as strict as onsite security requirements as described in this section.

Each surveillance recording must be preserved for a minimum of 40 days in a format that can be easily accessed for viewing. All recorded images must clearly and accurately display the time and date and be archived in a format that does not permit alteration of the recorded images so that they can readily be authenticated. After 40 days, a marijuana establishment may erase video recordings, unless the licensee knows or should know of any pending criminal, civil or administrative investigation for which the video recording may contain relevant information.

A marijuana establishment shall have policies and procedures that:

- Are designed to prevent diversion of marijuana or marijuana product; prevent loitering
- Describe the use of any additional security device, such as a motion detector, pressure switch and duress, panic or hold-up alarm to enhance security of licensed premises

- Describe the actions to be taken by a licensee, employee or agent of the marijuana establishment when any automatic or electronic notification system alerts a local law enforcement agency of an unauthorized breach of security

A marijuana establishment shall use commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises.

Arizona

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 720×480 pixels |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; fencing where applicable |
| Alarm System | A security alarm system and panic buttons in the interior of each building |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Arizona Marijuana Regulations |

Arizona legalized recreational adult use of cannabis products with [Proposition 207](#) in the November 2020 elections, passing with 60% of the vote and legalizing adult-use cannabis in the state. Election results were made official on Nov. 30, 2020, allowing adults over the age of 21 to possess up to an ounce of cannabis with no more than five grams being concentrate. Each adult is also allowed to grow up to six cannabis plants at home with no more than 12 plants per household.

Licenses for both medical and recreational marijuana are available. [Applications for a retail or medical marijuana business license can be found here](#). Even if an applicant already holds a transaction privilege tax license with the Arizona Department of Revenue, they should contact AZTaxHelp@azdor.gov to verify whether changes are required for future sales of cannabis products.

Alarm systems apply to all retail marijuana establishments:

Each marijuana establishment in Arizona must have an alarm system which is defined by [R9-17-318](#) as a “series of devices to detect unauthorized intrusion” and must be “interconnected with a radio frequency method, such as cellular, private radio signals, or other mechanical or electronic device.” This also includes a panic alarm in the interior of each building.

Congruently, a marijuana establishment must be able to produce a photograph on demand, which means an establishment should have a printer and a PC or Mac onsite, as you cannot connect a printer to your network video recorder. Lastly, each marijuana establishment is required to have a battery backup for at least five minutes.

Video Surveillance Equipment

Each marijuana establishment in Arizona is required by [R9-17-318](#) to have a complete IP-compatible video surveillance system with security cameras that produce a minimum resolution of 720×480 pixels.

- All recorded surveillance video must be stored and kept for a minimum of 45 days on the video recording device. All recorded video is subject to inspection at any time by any liquor control board employee or law enforcement officer, and a copy of the video must be provided upon request.
- All security camera video must be recorded continuously for 24 hours a day.
- There must be a security camera installed in every room of the facility where the marijuana is growing.



California

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 1280×720 pixels |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; fencing where applicable |
| Alarm System | A security alarm system on all exterior doors and windows |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | California Marijuana Regulations |

The sale of medical and recreational marijuana is legal in California as long as a seller has a state and local license. There are three state licensing authorities: the [Bureau of Cannabis Control](#), the [Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch](#) and [CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing](#). The type of license required (e.g., cultivator, retailer, testing lab) will determine which agency will issue the license. [Access the most current regulatory information from the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) here](#), along with further regulations at [this corresponding CDPH page](#).

Areas that shall be recorded on the video surveillance system include the following:

- Areas where cannabis or cannabis products are weighed, packed, stored, quarantined, loaded and unloaded for transportation, prepared or moved within the premises
- Limited-access areas
- Security rooms
- Areas containing surveillance-system storage devices, which shall contain at least one camera to record the access points to such an area
- The interior and exterior of all entrances and exits to the premises

The surveillance system shall record continuously 24 hours per day and at a minimum speed of 15 frames per second.

Any onsite surveillance system storage devices shall be located in secure rooms or areas of the premises in an access-controlled environment.

The licensee shall ensure that all surveillance recordings are kept for a minimum of 90 days.

- a. *All video surveillance recordings shall be available on the licensed premises and are subject to inspection by the department and shall also be copied and sent, or otherwise provided, to the CDPH upon request. or DPH-17-010 Cannabis Manufacturing Licensing.*

The video recordings shall display the current date and time of recorded events. Time is to be measured in accordance with the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology standards. The displayed date and time shall not significantly obstruct the view of recorded images.



Colorado

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 1280×720 pixels |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; fencing where applicable |
| Alarm System | A security alarm system on all exterior doors and windows |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Colorado Marijuana Regulations |

Licenses for both medical and recreational marijuana are available. [Find helpful information on licensing from the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division here](#).

The following security alarm systems and lock standards apply to all retail marijuana establishments:

- *Each licensed premises shall have a security alarm system, installed by an alarm installation company, on all perimeter entry points and perimeter windows.*
- *Each licensee must ensure that all its licensed premises are continuously monitored. Licensees may engage the services of a monitoring company to fulfill this requirement.*
- *At all points of ingress and egress, the licensee shall ensure the use of commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks.*

Video Surveillance Equipment

- *Video surveillance equipment shall, at a minimum, consist of digital or network video*

recorders, cameras capable of meeting the recording requirements described in this rule, video monitors, digital archiving devices and a color printer capable of delivering still photos.

- *Every video surveillance system must be equipped with a failure notification system that provides prompt notification to the licensee of any prolonged surveillance interruption and/or the complete failure of the surveillance system.*
- *Licensees are responsible for ensuring that all surveillance equipment is properly functioning and maintained, so that the playback quality is suitable for viewing and the surveillance equipment is capturing the identity of all individuals and activities in the monitored areas.*
- *All video surveillance equipment shall have sufficient battery backup to support a minimum of four hours of recording in the event of a power outage.*

District of Columbia

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Washington D.C. Marijuana Regulations |

While it is legal to use marijuana recreationally in Washington, D.C., there are no retail establishments selling marijuana for recreational use. The D.C. Department of Health has a [medical marijuana program](#), but it is not currently accepting applications for medical marijuana facilities.

A dispensary or cultivation center shall be required to operate and maintain in good working order a 24-hour closed circuit television surveillance system on the premises that complies with the following minimum standards:

- Visually records and monitors all building entrances and exits, all parking lot areas and rear alley areas immediately adjacent to the building and covers the entire inside of the facility, including all limited access areas, and including all areas where medical marijuana is cultivated, stored, dispensed or destroyed; fixed cameras shall be installed to provide a consistent recorded image of these areas; the cultivation center or dispensary shall instruct the company or individuals installing the surveillance cameras to maximize the quality of facial and body images and to avoid backlighting and physical obstructions
- Cameras installed outdoors and in low-light interior areas shall be day/night cameras with a minimum resolution of 600) lines per inch (analog) or D1 (IP) and a minimum light factor

requirement of 0.7 LUX; the installation of additional lighting may be required to increase picture clarity and brightness; cameras shall be calibrated and focused to maximize the quality of the recorded image

A dispensary or cultivation center shall install, maintain and use a professionally monitored robbery and burglary alarm system which meets the following requirements:

- The control panel shall be an Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-listed burglar alarm control panel
- The system shall report to a UL-listed central monitoring station
- A test signal shall be transmitted to the central station every 24 hours
- At a minimum, the system shall provide coverage of all facility entrances and exits, rooms with exterior windows, rooms with exterior walls or walls shared with other facility tenants, roof hatches, skylights and storage room(s) that contain safe(s)
- The system shall include at least one holdup alarm for staff use
- The system shall be inspected, with all devices tested, annually by a qualified alarm vendor

Illinois

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day and operational during a power outage with a 4-hour minimum battery backup |
| Access Control | Establish a locked door or barrier between the facility's entrance and the limited access area; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Illinois Marijuana Regulations |

Illinois' [Department of Financial and Professional Regulation](#) is responsible for issuing licenses for dispensaries. The [Illinois Department of Agriculture](#) is responsible for registering and regulating up to 22 cultivations centers; however, the application period is currently closed. More information can be found [on the Illinois General Assembly website](#).

The [Illinois General Assembly's Administrative Code](#) deems that a registered cultivation center shall implement a security plan reviewed by the Illinois State Police (ISP) and including but not limited to facility access controls, perimeter intrusion detection systems, personnel identification systems, a 24-hour surveillance system to monitor the interior and exterior of

the registered cultivation center facility and accessibility to authorized law enforcement and the Illinois Department of Agriculture in real time.

Additionally, the code requires storage of video recordings from the video cameras for at least 90 calendar days and a failure notification system that provides an audible and visual notification of any failure in the electronic video monitoring system.

All electronic video surveillance monitoring must record at least the equivalent of eight frames per second and be available to the division and ISP 24 hours a day in real time via a secure web-based portal with reverse functionality. More information can be found [on the Illinois General Assembly website](#).



Maine

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Maine Marijuana Regulations |

The Maine Division of Public Health Systems is responsible for the [Medical Use of Marijuana Program](#). Licenses for dispensaries are provided but rarely available. The Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Service’s [Office of Marijuana Policy](#) is in charge of regulating the industry through the [Marijuana Legalization Act](#). Additionally, some cities in Maine, such as [Portland](#), have passed their own requirements on marijuana establishments.

Security requirements for any licensed premises under this chapter include, at a minimum, lighting, physical security, alarm requirements and other minimum procedures for internal control as determined necessary by the state licensing authority to properly administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter, including reporting requirements for changes, alterations or modifications to the licensed premises. Security requirements may not be unreasonably impracticable.

A manufacturing facility must deter the unauthorized entrance into its premises by controlling access to those areas through the following means:

- *Limiting access to specific personnel who have cause to access the area to execute their specific job functions and duties*
- *Implementing an access control card system capable of preventing unauthorized access through access control points and recording the transaction history of all entrants*
- *Using an actively monitored security alarm system*
- *Installing security cameras at all access points to the premises and in storage areas for medical use marijuana, products and concentrates*
- *Maintaining a visitor arrival and departure log, which must contain, at a minimum, the name of the visitor, date and time of arrival and departure and the purpose of the visit.*



Massachusetts

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; fencing where applicable |
| Alarm System | Must have a primary and backup alarm systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Massachusetts Marijuana Regulations |

The Massachusetts Department of Health is responsible for the [Medical Use of Marijuana Program](#). In order to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD), an applicant must [apply for an RMD Certificate of Registration](#). The application process requires that an applicant first file an application of intent.

A marijuana establishment located, in whole or in part, in a building, greenhouse or other enclosed area shall have an adequate security system to prevent and detect diversion, theft or loss of marijuana or unauthorized intrusion, utilizing commercial-grade equipment which shall, at a minimum, include:

- *A perimeter alarm on all building entry and exit points and perimeter windows, if any*
- *A failure notification system that provides an audible, text or visual notification of any failure in the surveillance system; the failure notification system shall provide an alert to designated employees of the marijuana establishment within five minutes after the failure, either by telephone, email or text message*
- *A duress alarm, panic alarm or holdup alarm connected to local public safety or law enforcement authorities*
- *Video cameras in all areas that may contain marijuana, at all points of entry and exit and in any parking lot which shall be appropriate for the normal lighting conditions of the area under surveillance; the cameras shall be directed at all safes, vaults, sales areas and areas where marijuana is cultivated,*

harvested, processed, prepared, stored, handled or dispensed; cameras shall be angled so as to allow for the capture of clear and certain identification of any person entering or exiting the establishment or area

- *All-day recordings from all video cameras that are available immediate viewing by the commission upon request and that are retained for at least 90 calendar days; recordings shall not be destroyed or altered and shall be retained as long as necessary if the marijuana establishment is aware of a pending criminal, civil or administrative investigation or legal proceeding for which the recording may contain relevant information*
- *The ability to immediately produce a clear, color still photo, whether live or recorded*
- *A date and time stamp embedded in all recordings, which shall be synchronized and set correctly at all times and shall not significantly obscure the picture*
- *The ability to remain operational during a power outage*
- *A video recording that allows for the exporting of still images in an industry standard image format, including .jpg, .bmp and .gif; exported video shall have the ability to be archived in a proprietary format that ensures authentication of the video and guarantees that no alternation of the recorded image has taken place; exported video shall also have the ability to be saved in an industry standard file format that may be played on a standard computer operating system; all recordings shall be erased or destroyed prior to disposal.*



Michigan

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum of 720p resolution. |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Michigan Marijuana Regulations |

The Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency is responsible for overseeing medical marijuana and is composed of the Medical Marijuana Program and the [Facility Licensing Division](#). The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is currently accepting applications for growers, processors, transporters, provisioning centers and safety compliance facilities.

Security requirements include lighting, physical security and alarm requirements and requirements for securely transporting marijuana between marijuana establishments. The requirements described in this subdivision must not prohibit cultivation of marijuana outdoors or in greenhouses.

A licensed marijuana establishment shall maintain an alarm system at the business. Upon request, a licensee shall make available to the agency all information related to the alarm system, monitoring and alarm activity.

A licensee shall have a video surveillance system that, at a minimum, consists of digital or network video recorders, cameras capable of meeting the recording requirements in this rule, video monitors, digital archiving devices and a color printer capable of delivering still photos.

A licensee shall ensure the video surveillance system does all the following:

- a. *Records, at a minimum, the following areas:*
 - Any areas where marijuana products are weighed, packed, stored, loaded and unloaded for transportation, prepared or moved within the marijuana business
 - Limited access areas and security rooms; transfers between rooms must be recorded
 - Areas storing a surveillance system storage device with no less than one camera recording the access points to the secured surveillance recording area
 - The entrances and exits to the building, which must be recorded from both indoor and outdoor vantage points
 - The areas of entrance and exit between marijuana businesses at the same location if applicable, including any transfers between marijuana businesses.
 - Point of sale areas where marijuana products are sold and displayed for sale
 - Anywhere marijuana or marijuana products are destroyed
- b. *Records at all times images effectively and efficiently of the area under surveillance with a minimum of 720p resolution*



Nevada

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day |
| Access Control | Lock or locking mechanism that meets at least the security rating established by UL |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Nevada Marijuana Regulations |

The [Nevada Department of Taxation](#) is responsible for licensing and regulating retail marijuana businesses and the state's medical marijuana program. As of November 2018, only existing medical marijuana establishment certificate holders can apply for a retail marijuana establishment license.

Security equipment requirements are to deter and prevent unauthorized entrance into limited access areas that includes, without limitation:

- a. *Devices or a series of devices to detect unauthorized intrusion, which may include a signal system interconnected with a radio frequency method, such as cellular or private radio signals, or other mechanical or electronic device*
- b. *Exterior lighting to facilitate surveillance*
- c. *Electronic monitoring, including, without limitation:*
 - At least one call-up monitor that is 19 inches or more
 - A video printer capable of immediately producing a clear still photo from any video camera image
 - Video cameras with a recording resolution of at least 704x480 or the equivalent which provide coverage of all entrances to and exits from limited access areas and all entrances to and exits from the building and which are capable of identifying any activity occurring in or adjacent to the building

- A video camera at each point-of-sale location which allows for the identification of any person who holds a valid registry identification card, including, without limitation, a designated primary caregiver, purchasing medical marijuana
- A video camera in each grow room which is capable of identifying any activity occurring within the grow room in low light conditions
- A method for storing video recordings from the video cameras for at least 30 calendar days
- A failure notification system that provides an audible and visual notification of any failure in the electronic monitoring system
- Sufficient battery backup for video cameras and recording equipment to support at least five minutes of recording in the event of a power outage
- d. *Immediate automatic or electronic notification to alert local law enforcement agencies of an unauthorized breach of security at the medical marijuana establishment in the interior of each building of the medical marijuana establishment*

Learn more on the [Nevada government website](#) for marijuana regulation.

New Jersey

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 720×480 pixels |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; fencing where applicable |
| Alarm System | A security alarm system and panic buttons in the interior of each building |
| Security Personnel | Allowed |
| Regulations | New Jersey Marijuana Regulations |

In November 2020, New Jerseyans overwhelmingly approved a ballot referendum supporting cannabis legalization. Governor Murphy [signed that referendum into law](#) in early 2021 and signed several other corresponding bills that would help modernize the cannabis business in New Jersey. Rules for the recreational cannabis market can be found on New Jersey’s [Cannabis Regulatory Commission website](#).

New Jersey has adopted several security requirements for marijuana establishments through the [NJ Admin. Code 8:64-9.7](#) and will be promulgating more in-depth regulations later in 2021. As of September 2021, there are a number of things marijuana establishment must implement in order to be in compliance with security requirements. These requirements include:

- Marijuana establishments must also equip interior and exterior premises with electronic monitoring, video cameras and panic buttons. Specifically, it is required that a video

surveillance system be installed and operated to clearly monitor all critical control activities of the alternative treatment center are in working order and operating at all times.

- Marijuana establishments must provide effective controls and procedures to guard against theft and diversion of marijuana including, when appropriate, systems to protect against electronic records tampering.
- At a minimum, marijuana establishments must install and operate a safety and security alarm system in good working order 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Marijuana establishments must keep the outside areas well lit.
- Marijuana establishments must keep access from outside the premises to a minimum and ensure that access is well controlled.
- Marijuana establishments must limit entry into areas where marijuana is held to authorized personnel and provide onsite parking.

New York

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|---|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 9600 dpi |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises |
| Alarm System | A duress security alarm system and panic buttons in the interior of each building |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | New York Marijuana Regulations |

New York is the third state to adopt a legalization policy by passing a bill through its state legislature, joining Illinois and Vermont. Other states have legalized by voter initiative through popular elections. In passing the [Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act \(MRTA\)](#) New York also includes provisions for automatic expungement.

Marijuana establishments whether they be medical or recreational facilities in New York must follow the [Section 1004.13](#) guidelines around video surveillance, which are as follows:

- All video recordings shall allow for the exporting of still images in an industry standard image format (including .jpeg, .bmp and .gif). Exported video shall have the ability to be archived in a proprietary format that ensures authentication of the video and guarantees that no alteration of the recorded image has taken place.
- Sufficient battery backup for video cameras and recording equipment to support recording in the event of a power outage.
- System must immediately notify the licensee of any equipment failure or system outage within five minutes of the event.
- Cameras must continuously record for 24 hours and be available in real time.

- Recordings shall not be destroyed or altered and retained for at least 90 days.
- A date and time stamp embedded on all videos surveil lance recordings.
- The date and time shall be synchronized and set correctly and shall not significantly obscure the picture.
- The ability to immediately produce a clear color still photo that is a minimum of 9600 dpi from any camera image live or recorded

Cannabis Security Requirements:

- An automatic voice dialer, which for purposes of this section, means any electrical, electronic, mechanical or other device capable of being programmed to send a prerecorded voice message, when activated, over a telephone line, radio or other communication system, to a law enforcement, public safety or emergency services agency requesting dispatch.
- Must have fully operational security alarm system on all entry/exit points and perimeter windows. Must also have motion detectors.
- Must be programmed to notify a monitoring center in the event of a breach.
- A duress alarm, panic button and alarm, holdup alarm or after-hours intrusion detection alarm that by design and purpose will directly or indirectly notify local law enforcement.

Oregon

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum resolution of 1280x720 pixels and record at 10 frames per second |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems, with at least two operational panic buttons |
| Security Personnel | Allowed |
| Regulations | Oregon Marijuana Regulations |

Licenses are required and available for both medical and recreational marijuana businesses. The state [requires separate licenses and registration for growers and dispensary operators](#). The [Oregon Liquor Control Commission License](#) accepts applications for recreational marijuana licenses, and [Chapter 845](#) lays out security requirements for marijuana establishments.

The Oregon Health Authority requires that each marijuana establishment install a minimum-security system, including a video surveillance system, alarm system and safe. These requirements include:

- *Having at least two operational “panic buttons” located inside the licensed premises that are linked with the alarm system and immediately notify a security company or law enforcement*
- *Having operational “panic buttons” physically carried by all licensee representatives present on the licensed premises that are linked with the alarm system that immediately notifies a security company or law enforcement*

- *Having a landline telephone present in all limited access areas that is capable of immediately calling a security company or law enforcement*

A licensed marijuana establishment must also comply with video surveillance requirements as well. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- *All points of ingress and egress to and from areas where mature marijuana plants, immature marijuana plants, usable marijuana, cannabinoid concentrates, extracts, products or waste are present must be surveilled*
- *All areas where camera coverage is required, use cameras that record at a minimum resolution of 1280x720 pixels and record at 10 frames per second*
- *Use of cameras that are capable of recording in all lighting conditions*
- *Maintaining surveillance recordings for a minimum of 90 calendar days*
- *Maintaining offsite backup recordings described in (2)(k) of this rule for a minimum of 30 days*

Vermont

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Must be operational 24 hours a day |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | N/A |
| Regulations | Vermont Marijuana Regulations |

The Vermont Department of Public Safety is responsible for the [Marijuana Registry](#) and issues dispensary registration certificates; the department has issued four [dispensary registration](#) certificates and one conditional certificate and plans to announce an application period for a sixth dispensary once the number of registered patients reaches 7,000.

A marijuana establishment shall not possess marijuana until an operational security alarm system, video surveillance and panic buttons have

been installed and the department has performed a site assessment.

Operational video surveillance is required at each registered marijuana establishment location. Video surveillance shall monitor customer service areas, cultivation areas, entry and egress areas and any other areas at the registered location containing marijuana, including processing and packing areas. Video footage shall be recorded and stored digitally for 30 days.



Washington

| Mandatory Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments | |
|--|--|
| Video Surveillance | Minimum camera resolution of 640x470 pixels or pixel equivalent for analog |
| Access Control | Commercial-grade, nonresidential door locks on all exterior entry points to the licensed premises; personal identification necessary |
| Alarm System | Perimeter intrusion detection systems |
| Security Personnel | Allowed; but must hold a armed private security license |
| Regulations | Washington State Marijuana Regulations |

A marijuana license is required in Washington to produce, process or retail marijuana. The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board is responsible for [marijuana licensing](#); however, the board is not currently accepting applications for licenses.

At a minimum, each licensed premises must have a security alarm system on all perimeter entry points and perimeter windows. Motion detectors, pressure switches, duress, panic and holdup alarms may also be used.

At a minimum, a licensed premise must have a complete video surveillance system with minimum camera resolution of 640x470 pixels or pixel equivalent for analog. The surveillance system storage device and/or the cameras must be internet protocol (IP) compatible. All cameras must be fixed, and placement must allow for the clear and certain identification of any person and activities in controlled areas of the licensed premises. All entrances and exits to an indoor facility must be recorded from both indoor and outdoor or ingress and egress vantage points.

All cameras must record continuously 24 hours per day and at a minimum of 10 frames per second. The surveillance system storage device must be secured on the licensed premises in a lockbox, cabinet or closet or secured in another manner to protect from employee tampering or criminal theft. All surveillance recordings

must be kept for a minimum of 45 days on the licensee’s recording device. All videos are subject to inspection by any Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) employee or law enforcement officer and must be copied and provided to the WSLCB or law enforcement officer upon request. Each recorded image must clearly and accurately display the time and date. Time is to be measured in accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology standards.

Controlled areas include:

- Any area within an indoor, greenhouse or outdoor room or area where marijuana is grown or marijuana or marijuana waste is being moved within, processed, stored or destroyed; rooms or areas where marijuana or marijuana waste is never present are not considered control areas and do not require camera coverage
- All point-of-sale areas
- Twenty feet of the exterior of the perimeter of all required fencing and gates enclosing an outdoor grow operation; any gate or other entry point that is part of the required enclosure for an outdoor growing operation must be lighted in low-light conditions; a motion detection lighting system may be employed to light the gate area in low-light conditions
- Any room or area storing a surveillance system storage device



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Cannabis Business Times: State-by-State Guide to Cannabis Cultivation Business Application and Licensing Fees](#)

[NORML](#)

[Oberk.com: State-by-State Legal Guidance](#)

[Procon.org: Legal Medical Marijuana States and D.C. Map and Information](#)

[WeedMaps.com: State-by-State Guide to Laws and Regulations](#)