



## Ohio Department of Commerce Testing Laboratory Rules

### Overview

As one of three state government agencies responsible for developing, implementing and overseeing the state's Medical Marijuana Control Program, the Ohio Department of Commerce is tasked with developing rules that will govern the operation of medical marijuana testing laboratories in the state of Ohio. The primary focus of the rules is to develop a program that ensures the safety of the public and access to a safe medical product. The draft rules presented to the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee were developed after benchmarking with other states and consulting with industry experts.

### Highlights

Highlights of the rules include:

- **License Allocation:** The Department may issue provisional licenses to laboratories affiliated with institutions of higher learning after the effective date of the rules (no later than September 8, 2017). The Department may begin issuing provisional licenses to private laboratories one year after the date on which the Department begins accepting applications for licensure under section 3796.09 of the Revised Code.
- **Flexibility:** Rules allow for testing at intermediate points in the manufacturing process in order to eliminate redundancy and aid processors in manufacturing products of consistent quality.
- **Certification and Accreditation:** Laboratories have two years from the issuance of a provisional license to become certified and accredited to ISO 17025 standard.
- **Scientific Director:** Testing laboratories will employ a scientific director to supervise staff and ensure quality standards of practice, as well as implement training in accordance with these rules.
- **Proficiency Testing:** The Department may require proficiency testing or third-party validation of analytical methods to ensure integrity of practices in the interest of patient safety.
- **Licensing Fees:** The laboratory application fee is \$2,000 and the certificate of operation fee is \$18,000; a laboratory annual license renewal fee is \$20,000.

The full text of the rules will be available on the Medical Marijuana Control Program website: [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/rules](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/rules).

### Next Steps

The medical marijuana testing laboratory rules will follow the standard rule development process. After receiving input from the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee and the public, the rules will be submitted to the Common Sense Initiative, followed by a rules submission to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

The public has the opportunity to comment at several points throughout the rule development process. The first opportunity is February 23-March 10. Visit [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/rules](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/rules) for instructions on how to provide comments. For more information, visit the Medical Marijuana Control Program website: [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov).