1. WHO REGULATES THE USE OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN FOOD PRODUCTS?

In California, industrial hemp is considered an agricultural crop. There are various products derived from industrial hemp. The California Department of Public Health – Food and Drug Branch (CDPH-FDB) has authority over food additives, dietary use products, food labeling, and good manufacturing practices for food. Industrial hemp used as a food additive or dietary supplement falls under the authority of CDPH-FDB.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Division (DPH-EH) serves as the local enforcement agency for 85 cities within the County of Los Angeles. DPH-EH is responsible for the enforcement of the California Retail Food Code (Cal Code) as well as applicable regulations pertaining to food.

2. WHAT ARE THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP DERIVED PRODUCTS THAT ARE APPROVED AS FOOD?

CDPH-FDB has APPROVED the use of the following industrial hemp derived products as food:

- Seeds derived from industrial hemp
- Industrial hemp seed oil - extracted ONLY from the seeds of the industrial hemp plant

CDPH-FDB PROHIBITS the following ingredients from being added to food:

- Cannabidiol (CBD) oil derived from industrial hemp
- CBD products derived from industrial hemp
- Industrial hemp oil that is not derived from industrial hemp seeds
- Industrial hemp seed oil that has been enhanced with CBD or other cannabinoids
- CBD products derived from cannabis

3. WHEN ARE FOOD OPERATORS REQUIRED TO COMPLY?

On July 6, 2018, the CDPH-FDB published new guidelines which clarified the approved use of industrial hemp derived products in food. Therefore, food operators are required to discontinue the use of prohibited industrial hemp derived products immediately.

DPH-EH will provide education and training on the approved use of industrial hemp derived products in food during inspection.

Effective July 1, 2019, prohibited use of industrial hemp derived products in food will be considered adulterated and cited by DPH-EH as a violation resulting in a deduction of two (2) points on the official inspection report.

4. HOW DO I KNOW IF THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP DERIVED PRODUCT I USE IS APPROVED?

Operators must carefully review the packaging, nutritional label and list of ingredients of the product. If any of the ingredients prohibited by CDPH-FDB, as listed above on #2 is found, the use of the product must be discontinued.

You may also contact the Consultative Services Program to submit information on your product for review.

5. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Refer to FAQ--Industrial Hemp and Cannabidiol (CBD) in Food Products.pdf document from CDPH-FDB for additional information.

You may also contact the DPH-EH Consultative Services Program at 626-430-5320.