

ADULT USE AND MEDICINAL CANNABIS PACKAGING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) became effective January 1, 2018. Depending on the type of operation, cannabis retailers can have Adult Use (A) or Medicinal Use (M) cannabis licenses. MAUCRSA establishes how cannabis products must be packaged and labeled. Below are guidelines to help consumers understand packaging and labeling requirements.

Packaging Requirements

All packaging for edibles must be opaque so the consumers cannot see the product.

The packaging shall include the California universal symbol. The symbol shall be black in font. This identifies the product contains cannabis.

The customer should easily be able to see if a package has been damaged, opened, or tampered with.

The size of the text on the package must be 6 point, legible, easily understood, and in English only.

All cannabis packaging is prohibited from making health claims, including claims or suggestions that the product will cure, benefit, heal, etc., an illness or disease.

If packaging has multiple layers, labeling requirements must be located on the inner and outer layers of the package.

If the product contains more than 1,000 mg of THC, a "Medical Use Only" sticker must be on the package within the informational panel.

Cannabis products cannot be packaged in a manner that is attractive to children (e.g., cartoon characters, imitations of candy labeling, words such as "candy" or "candies").

California state law requires that all cannabis products be in child-resistant packaging.

Single-use packaging:

The package is only child-resistant before it is opened initially (one time). Once the package is opened, it is no longer considered child-resistant.

Multiple-use packaging:

The package is child-resistant for its lifetime, no matter how many times it is opened. The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides all child-resistant guidelines.

Labeling Requirements

The label cannot include words or images that appeal to children such as a cartoon character, superhero, words like “candy” or “candies,” or variations like “Kandeez.”

The label must be on the outermost layer of the packaging.

The text size of the package must be in 6-point font, legible, easily understood, and in English only.

The label must contain the identity of the product.

The label must include a batch or lot number, if applicable. Batch numbers or lot numbers are numbers generated by a manufacturer that identify the items as part of a single production batch; batch numbers correspond to a manufacturer’s internal batch production records.



In bold font and capital letters, the label must include the government warning statement that the product:

- CONTAINS CANNABIS
- Must be kept away from children
- Must only be consumed or carried by those 21 years or older (unless qualified patient)
- Has pregnancy and/or breastfeeding concerns

The list of ingredients on the informational panel must be in descending order by weight or volume.

Violations

It is important to identify any violations of packaging or labeling requirements. You can file an anonymous complaint against licensed or unlicensed cannabis businesses at <https://cannabis.ca.gov/resources/file-complaint/> or visit the QR code.

