

MIOSHA Fact Sheet



Marijuana Industry – Potential Health and Safety Hazards

Introduction

The complicated nature of the hazards present in the marijuana industry, highlights the need for careful attention to safety and health at all types of marijuana businesses. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an overview of the safety and health hazards that *may* be present in the cultivation, processing, and sale of marijuana. **Not all hazards listed in this guide may be present at a given facility. Conversely, there may be additional hazards not listed within the scope of this guide that may be present at a given facility.** This guide is intended to provide a starting point for the identification and control of occupational safety and health hazards in this evolving industry.

Safety and Health Program (SHP)

Identifying and controlling workplace hazards begins with an effective SHP. Such a system typically consists of seven core elements that apply to employers who have been successful in protecting the safety and health of their employees. An effective SHP depends on:

- Management Leadership
- Worker Participation
- Hazard Identification and Assessment
- Hazard Prevention and Control
- Education and Training
- Program Evaluation and Improvement
- Communication and Coordination for Host Employers, Contractors, and Staffing Agencies

Potential Safety and Health Hazards

Below is a list of some hazards associated with the cannabis industry.

- Carbon dioxide used to enrich the growing environment

- Chemicals used as plant nutrients and chemicals used to clean and sanitize equipment
- Chemicals used to extract essential oils from plant materials
- Molds, allergens, and vegetative dusts from growing or processing environments
- Noise from growing and processing equipment including generators or processing machinery
- Unguarded machinery and equipment
- Powered industrial trucks
- Heat and humidity from warm indoor growing climates
- Eye hazards from grow lights
- Workplace violence related to asset protection

Standards that may Impact the Industry

Agricultural Standard [Part 700, Agriculture](#) (not a complete list):

- Air contaminants, e.g., carbon dioxide
- Respiratory protection
- Noise
- Fire suppression systems
- Ventilation

Construction Standard [Part 42, Hazard Communication](#), General Industry Standard [Part 92, Hazardous Communication](#), and General Industry Standard [Part 430, Hazard Communication](#)

- Written program
- Safety data sheets
- Labeling
- Employee training

Construction Standard [Part 1, General Rules](#)

- Housekeeping
- Machine controls, guarding, and devices
- Compressed air

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.



Consultation Education and Training Division
530 W. Allegan Street • P.O. Box 30643 • Lansing, Michigan 48909-8143
www.michigan.gov/miosha • (517) 284-7720
(CET Fact Sheet #0198 • Revised 09/11/2023)



General Industry Standard [Part 2, Walking-Working Surfaces](#)

Construction Standard [Part 6, Personal Protective Equipment](#)

General Industry Standard [Part 21, Powered Industrial Trucks](#)

- Operator training, testing, and permits
- Care and use of powered industrial trucks
- Specifications of equipment

General Industry Standard [Part 75, Flammable Liquids](#)

General Industry Standard [Part 33, Personal Protective Equipment](#) and General Industry Standard [Part 433, Personal Protective Equipment](#)

- Perform a Job Hazard Assessment (JHA)
- Certification of hazard assessment
- Selection of PPE
- Employee training
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Clean and sanitize multi-user PPE
- [PPE guide and sample certification](#) (doc)

General Industry and Construction Standard [Part 451, Respiratory Protection](#)

If employer requires the use of respirators or such are required, the standard sets forth minimum requirements.

- Designate qualified program administrator
- Provide respirators, training, and medical surveillance at no cost to employees

Written program requirements:

- Selection procedure
- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing procedures
- Procedures for proper use and maintenance
- Employee training
- Program evaluation

General Industry Standard [Part 380, Occupational Noise Exposure in General Industry](#)

When information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed the action level of 85 dBA as an 8-hour time-weighted average, you must develop and implement a noise-monitoring program to evaluate employee noise exposure. If noise

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monitoring results exceed the action level, a hearing conservation program is required.

Workplace noise levels that interfere with normal conversation, i.e., raising voice to be heard over background noise, may indicate exposure above the action level.

General Industry Standard [Part 472, Medical Services and First Aid](#)

- Medical assistance – When required to have first aid providers onsite
- Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available
- Emergency eyewash and shower requirements

General Industry Standard [Part 474, Sanitation](#)

- Housekeeping and waste disposal
- Vermin control
- Water supply
- Provision of toilet facilities
- Food/beverage storage and consumption

General Industry Standard [Part 301, Air Contaminants for General Industry](#)

- Carbon dioxide used in some processes that extract substances from plant material.
- Other chemicals may also be used in the extraction process.

Please visit the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards for additional information on MIOSHA standards; or contact the Consultation Education and Training Division at (517) 284-7720 for free assistance.

Additional Regulatory Information:

- [Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency](#)
- [Michigan Bureau Fire Services – Medical Marijuana Plan Reviews/Inspections](#)

Additional Resources:

- Colorado Department of Health and Environment – [Marijuana Safety and Health](#)
- Suggested Format for a Written Hazard Communication Program – [Sample Written Plan](#)