

# Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 Main: 907.269.0350

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Marijuana Control Board DATE: February 20, 2019

FROM: Erika McConnell, Director RE: Regulations Project – Inspection

Marijuana Control Board Parameters

The board opened this project at the August 2018 meeting. Public comments were accepted for over 30 days and are attached.

The change clarifies that the board's authority to inspect a licensed facility covers all areas and locations of business operations, whether or not such areas are within the licensed premises.

## Options for the board:

- Vote to adopt as written
- Amend; if amendment is significant, put out for public comment
- Send back to staff for revisions
- Close the project without action

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3 AAC 306.725(a) is amended to read:

(Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am \_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_\_) **Authority:** AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.131 AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121 AS 17.38.190

#### 3 AAC 306.800 is amended to read:

- **3 AAC 306.800. Inspection and investigation.** (a) The director, an enforcement agent, an employee of the board, or a peace officer acting in an official capacity, may
- (1) Inspect the licensed premises of a marijuana establishment and the location of other elements of business operations, including any marijuana and marijuana product on the premises, equipment used in cultivating, processing, testing, or storing marijuana, the marijuana establishment's marijuana inventory tracking system, business records, waste and waste disposal areas, and computers, at any reasonable time and in a reasonable manner;
  - (2) issue a report or notice as provided in 3 AAC 306.805; and

Register,	2018	COMMERCE,	COMMUNITY,	, AND EC	. DEV

- (3) as authorized under AS 17.38.131, exercise peace officer powers and take any other action the director determines is necessary.
- (b) A marijuana establishment, and any licensee, employee, or agent in charge shall cooperate with the director, an enforcement agent, an employee of the board, or a peace officer acting in an official capacity, to enforce the laws related to marijuana, including
- (1) permitting entry upon and inspection of the licensed premises <u>and the</u> <u>location of other elements of business operations</u>; and
- (2) providing access to business records at reasonable times when requested by the director, an enforcement agent, an employee of the board, or a peace officer. (Eff. 2/21/2016,

From: Vernon Smith

To: <u>CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)</u>

Subject: Comment

**Date:** Tuesday, December 04, 2018 11:00:00 AM

I believe the current language in 3 AAC 306.725(a) and 3 AAC 306.800 is adequate at this time. And should not be changed

Vernon L Smith

From: dollynda Phelps

To: <u>CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)</u>

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT RE: INSPECTION OF THE LOCATION OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

**Date:** Friday, December 07, 2018 3:10:56 PM

In regards to making regulatory amendments allowing inspection of "the location of other elements of business operations" there are several elements of concern. This is massive over reach and invasion of privacy to any licensee.

I am going to reiterate a comment I made at the last meeting, and that is "Stop treating us like criminals and start treating us like business owners. Regulate to the 98% doing things right and not the 2% doing things wrong." If an officer of the law shows up at my house and wants to inspect it, they must provide a warrant to do so. The notion that AMCO should have the right to inspect the location of other elements of business operations either on or off site, including where I store my cash, is absolutely unacceptable.

Does this mean my paper towels, soil, nutrients, money, scissors, and other trivial items cannot be stored in a shed that is on or off the property without invasion from AMCO? What is the difference if the paper towels, soil, nutrients and scissors are stored at the store? Is AMCO going to go to Wal Mart to inspect bottles of alcohol? Should I have to resort to purchasing one bag of soil at a time and use it immediately to prevent invasion of my personal space? If I buy 5 bags at a time and store them in a shed to save on travel expenses, does this mean I lose my right to privacy? WRONG.

This amendment should in no way be considered for adoption. If AMCO runs into issues with a specific licensee, then that specific licensee should be addressed, not the entire industry. It is appalling that AMCO feels they should have the right to inspect personal storage areas not included in the licensed premises for fear of diversion or whatever their concern is. My personal property in my shed is just that. What problem are you trying to solve? A CPA is going to identify possible diversion far more efficiently than an invasion of personal space. It is unfortunate that enforcement feels that all licensees are at some point going to attempt to divert marijuana from a licensed facility. This is the only reason to request inspection of private storage space. Again, STOP TREATING US LIKE CRIMINALS. There is no other business that has been treated this way, enough is enough.

From: Barret Goodale

To: <u>CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)</u>

Subject: Public comment on proposed changes to 3 AAC 306.725(a) and 3 AAC 306.800

**Date:** Sunday, December 09, 2018 11:43:14 AM

### Marijuana Control Board Members,

The proposed regulatory changes concerning inspections of marijuana establishment inspections are too broad and vague in their wording.

The proposed changes to 3 AAC 306.725(a), 3 AAC 306.800 both include the phrase, "location of other elements of business operations". This phrase is dangerous.

"Other elements of business operations" could be interpreted as anything from a business meeting, a vehicle used to buy office supplies, or placing an order over the phone.

This should not give investigators the right to inspect the place where any of these activities occur. These events could take place at a private residence or another business. There is no reason that investigators should be granted unrestricted access to these locations in order to adequately conduct their duties.

The regulations should be sharply defined in order to combat the infringement of right to privacy. These broad and poorly defined regulations can lead to overreach by the agencies that have been given the authority to interpret the regulations.

Thank you for considering my comment and reflecting on the impact that your decisions will make on the residents of Alaska.

C. Barret Goodale GOOD Cultivation Manager 907-699-9478

Follow GOOD on <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Facebook</u>

Alaska Marijuana Industry Association member

I own a marijuana retail store. I am focusing on the additional wording "elements of business operation". By adding this wording, it will allow immediate access to all elements of running my business. It is not only dangerous but also absurd.

My family and I am already in complete danger for the amount of cash that is assumed to be in my home. Now, AMCO wants me to allow enforcement staff, the board, the board director, local police and fire inspector to be given the knowledge and access to all my hidden cash that I must retain in order to run my business day to day.

As for supplies, AMCO can request at any time to see my financial records. If AMCO would actually hire enforcers who can read a "Detailed Financial Balance sheet" instead of ex-police, they would recognize that they already have all this information at their fingertips. My accounting records allow AMCO enforcement to see everything I have bought for my store. All they have to do is ask for it, on site and they will see everything I have bought for the last 6 months. With a three-day notice, they have access to my financials records since I was licensed in 2016.

Many supplies are shipped from out of state, which means we buy in bulk. These items are essential for running my business but are inconsequential to regulating and enforcing marijuana, such as packaging supplies. I store some unimportant items in my home, therefore, this new regulation would give AMCO enforcement, the director, the AMCO board, local police and fire inspector access to my home, family and grandchildren without my authority or control.

These new regulations are a waste of time, which in turn, is a waste of money. Please encourage AMCO to hire enforcers with business backgrounds. This would allow enforcement to regulate effectually without asking for new regulations merely because they lack education. Licensed marijuana businesses need to be treated like a business not drug dealers.

Thank you,
Patricia Patterson, Owner High Bush Buds #10831

A list of 'elements' for running my marijuana retail store. Highlighted in yellow are items stored off premise					
Supplies for financials and money.	5. Equipment for required regulations				
a. Supplies such as:	a. Such as:				
<mark>i. cash</mark>	i. heat sealers				
ii. Accounting programs	ii. cash registers				
iii. Accounting records since 2016	iii. Laptop				
iv. Accounting records last 6 months	iv. Scales				
v. Office supplies	v. Cameras				
b. Equipment such as:	vi. Printers				
<mark>i. Vaults.</mark>	6. Supplies for general day to day business				
ii. Computer and printer	a. Such as:				
<mark>iii. 10-key</mark>	i. Office supplies				
2. Products: marijuana for Resale	ii. Décor and Art supplies				
a. Items such as:	<mark>iii. Cleaning supplies</mark>				
i. Bud	iv. Store display supplies				
ii. Concentrate	v. Paper cones				
iii. Edibles	vi. Security supplies				
iv. Non-edible	vii. any extra items like coffee, snacks and				
3. Products: non-marijuana for Resale	<mark>kitchen ware</mark> .				
a. Items Such as	7. Equipment for general day to day business				
i. smoking and vape accessories	a. Such as:				
<mark>ii. storage accessories</mark>	i. Coffee pot				
iii. clothing	ii. Tool Box				
iv. novelty items	iii. Humidifier				
4. Supplies for required regulation	iv. Air conditioner				
a. Such as:	v. Joint Making Box				
<mark>i. receipt paper</mark>	vi. Phone				
ii. storage containers and bags					
<mark>iii. exit packaging</mark>					
<mark>iv. blank stickers</mark>					



John E. Redden General Counsel 645 G Street, Suite 100-907 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Ph: (816) 830-6978 Em: JRedden@GreatNorthernCannabis.com

December 12, 2018

Marijuana Control Board
Mark Springer, Chair
Jeff Ankerfelt
Loren Jones
Brandon Emmett
Nicholas Miller
Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RE: Proposed amendments to 3 AAC 306.725(a) and 3 AAC 306.800

Dear Sirs:

Great Northern Cannabis, Incorporated (GNC) is an Alaska corporation with approximately 80 full- and part-time employees, and roughly two dozen Alaskan shareholders from a wide variety of backgrounds. We currently own and operate a cultivation facility and two retail stores. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations regarding the proposed changes on marijuana establishment inspections.

We believe this proposal is a common sense and equitable solution to ensuring inspection and investigative access previously believed to be within the jurisdiction of the director, an employee or agent of the board, or an officer charged with the enforcement of the chapter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We would be happy to participate in any future rule-making processes.

Sincerely,

John E. Redden