



MEMORANDUM

TO: Drinkables Working Group
FROM: Rick Helms, AMCO
DATE: December 10, 2021
SUBJECT: Universal Symbol



To date there has been a great deal of work on a national scale with the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) to propose standards for marijuana packaging and labeling, including a standardized universal symbol as discussed in the Drinkables Working Group at Session 1. As discussed, the universal symbol would answer several safety and security package questions and concerns. Here are some features of the universal symbol as designed:

1. The label advises with a clearly recognizable symbol that the product contains cannabis. The symbol incorporates a cannabis leaf – the graphic element most associated with cannabis/marijuana into the internationally-compliant standard triangular caution sign as you see on a roadway and a black border (a yellow outline is used whenever the symbol is used against a dark background),¹ creating an instantly familiar symbol for cannabis/marijuana product packages;
2. The large leaf has well-separated leaflets that remain clear at greatly reduced dimensions;
3. Absence of punctuation and text, but use of acronyms (e.g., “THC” and “AK”) below the triangle complies with existing international caution sign standards and avoids linguistic &

¹ (ISO 3864) using “Warning Signal Yellow” (ISO 3864-4/ANSI Z535.1, Pantone 109, Hex #ffd100).

jurisdictional ambiguity and prevents the need for future changes in the symbol as cannabis/marijuana science and policy evolves, enables authorities having jurisdiction to identify contents, regulatory jurisdiction, and/or simply to reflect an Alaska product;

4. For all but the smallest containers, recommended minimum width of the black triangle is 1/2 inch (12.7 mm);
5. Multiple file formats (e.g., PDF, EPS, SVG, and JPG) will be available in perpetuity for public use worldwide, royalty-free, and at no cost; and,
6. The symbol has been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation & the ASTM working group under Committee D37 developing a universal cannabis symbol.

Here is the universal symbol along with are some symbols that are currently in use:

