

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: April 3, 2025

FROM: Kristina Serezhenkov, Local Government RE: Operating Plans

Specialist

This project was tabled at the November 20, 2024 board meeting to the April 2025 board meeting.

Background: The board approved the draft regulations for initial Law review at the January 31, 2024 meeting. Upon the Department of Law's approval, the draft was sent out for official public comment with the comment period closing 9.6.2024. Comments were received and are attached. The board tabled this project at the September 2024 board meeting to the November 2024 meeting.

Options for the board:

- Move to adopt and send to Law for final review
- Move to amend and adopt and then send to Law for final review. (If amended, may require additional public comment period-agency attorney to advise.)
- Move to send back to staff for more work
- Table the regulations project
- Close the regulations project

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.)

- 3 AAC 306.020(c) is amended to read:
- (c) A marijuana establishment license application must include <u>a certification that at the time of licensure the establishment will comply with all applicable regulatory requirements</u>

 [THE APPLICANT'S OPERATING PLAN, IN A FORMAT THE BOARD PRESCRIBES,
 DESCRIBING TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THE PROPOSED MARIJUANA

 ESTABLISHMENT'S PLANS] for
 - (1) security;
 - (2) inventory tracking of all marijuana and marijuana products on the premises;
 - (3) employee qualification and training;
 - (4) waste disposal;
 - (5) transportation and delivery of marijuana and marijuana products; and
 - (6) signage and advertising.

(Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am 8/11/2018, Register 227; am 12/10/2020, Register 236; am

//	/, Register)
ii	

Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.200
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

- 3 AAC 306.045(e) is amended to read:
- (e) When a transferee intends to continue to operate a marijuana license with the <u>licensed</u>

 premises [OPERATING PLAN] approved by the board for the transferor, the transferee may

Register	, 202	4 COMMER	CE, COMMUNITY, AND EC. DEV.				
submit a form approved by the board certifying that the transferee is making no changes to the							
[OPERATING	G PLAN OR] licensed	premises [, INSTEAD	OF SUBMITTING INFORMATION				
REQUIRED 1	BY 3 AAC 306.020(b)	(8), 3 AAC 306.020(c)), 3 AAC 306.315(1)(B), 3 AAC				
306.420, 3 A	AC 306.520(2) and (3)	, and 3 AAC 306.615].	(Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am				
12/28/2017, R	Register 224; am 2/21/2	2019, Register 229; am	1/22/2023, Register 245; am				
//	, Register)						
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.200				
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.900				
	AS 17.38.121						
3 AAC 306.0	46(c)(3) is amended to	read:					
	(3) <u>the</u> [AN OPERA	TING PLAN AND] pr	oposed licensed premises as described				
under 3 AAC	306.020(b)(8), [3 AA	C 306.020(c), 3 AAC 3	306.315(1)(B), 3 AAC 306.420,				
3 AAC 306.52	20(2) and (3), 3 AAC	306.615,] 3 AAC 306.7	705(d), and 3 AAC 306.710(d), if				
applicable;							
(Eff. 1/22/202	23, Register 245; am _		ister)				
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38.150	AS 17.38.200				
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38.190	AS 17.38.900				
	AS 17.38.121						

- 3 AAC 306.047(c)(2) is amended to read:
- (2) <u>the information required under 3 AAC 306.020(c)</u> [ANY CHANGES PROPOSED TO THE APPROVED OPERATING PLAN];

Register	_,	_2024	COMMER	CE, COMMUNITY, AND EC. DEV.		
(Eff. 2/21/2019, Register 229; am 12/10/2020, Register 236; am 1/22/2023, Register 245; am						
4/16/2023, Re	egister 246; am _	//	_, Register _			
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38	8.150	AS 17.38.200		
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38	8.190	AS 17.38.900		
	AS 17.38.121					
The introducte	ory language of 3	AAC 306.080	(a) is amende	ed to read:		
(a) Af	ter review of the	application [, IN	NCLUDING	THE APPLICANT'S PROPOSED		
OPERATING	PLAN] and all 1	elevant informa	ation, the boa	ard will deny an application for a new		
license or new	v onsite consump	tion endorseme	nt if the boar	rd finds that		
•••						
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	204.)45					
3 AAC 306.08	80(a)(5) is amend					
(5) the applicant's actions do [OR THE OPERATING PLAN DOES] not						
adequately demonstrate that the applicant will comply with applicable provisions of this chapter;						
3 AAC 306.080(g)(6) is amended to read:						
	(6) the applican	t's actions <u>do</u> [0	OR THE OP	ERATING PLAN DOES] not		
adequately de	monstrate that th	e applicant will	comply with	n applicable provision of AS 17.38 and	f	
this chapter;						
(Eff. 2/21/201	6, Register 217;	am 2/21/2019, 1	Register 229;	; am 8/21/2019, Register 231; am		

 $8/7/2021, Register\ 239; am\ 7/30/2022, Register\ 243; am\ 1/22/2023, Register\ 245; am\ 3/22/2024, Register\ 245; am\ 3/22/$

Register 249; am ____/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 17.38.010

AS 17.38.150

AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.070

AS 17.38.190

AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

- 3 AAC 306.100(c) is amended to read:
- (c) The non-refundable fee to request board approval of a change to [IN] a licensed marijuana establishment's business name, licensed premises diagram, existing approved marijuana product, [OPERATING PLAN] or to request board approval to add a [PROPOSED] new marijuana product is \$250. This [A CHANGE] fee does not apply to an application for transfer of a marijuana establishment license, transfer of controlling interest to another person, or transfer of a marijuana establishment license to another location. (Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am 7/19/2017, Register 223; am 8/11/2018, Register 227; am 2/21/2019, Register 229; am 4/11/2019, Register 230; am 5/1/2019, Register 230; am 5/9/2019, Register 230, am 3/25/2020, Register 233; am 7/30/2022, Register 243; am 1/22/2023, Register 245; am 4/16/2023, Register 246; am 1/19/2024, Register 249; am ____/____, Register) **Authority:** AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.200 AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.190 AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

3 AAC 306.315(1)(B) is repealed:

(B) repealed ____/___ [A DESCRIPTION OF THE WAY MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA PRODUCTS AT THE RETAIL MARIJUANA

Register	_,	2024	COMMERC	CE, COMMUNITY, AND EC. DEV			
STORE WILL BE DISPLAYED AND SOLD IN THE APPLICANT'S OPERATING							
PLAN	REQUIRED UN	DER 3 AAC 30	06.020(C); A	ND];			
(Eff. 2/21/201	6, Register 217; a	m 7/27/2017, F	Register 223;	am 1/22/2023, Register 245; am			
8/13/2023, Re	egister 247; am	//	_, Register _)			
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38	3.150	AS 17.38.200			
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38	3.190	AS 17.38.900			
	AS 17.38.121						
3 AAC 306.3	70(f)(1) is amende	ed to read:					
	(1) the informat	ion required u	nder 3 AAC	2 306.020(c) and information on			
operations th	nat describes [AP]	PLICANT'S O	PERATING	PLAN, IN A FORMAT THE			
BOARD PRESCRIBES, DESCRIBING] the retail marijuana store's plan for							
3 AAC 306.3	70(g)(1) is amende	ed to read:					
	(1) destroy all ur	nconsumed mar	rijuana left al	pandoned or unclaimed in the			
marijuana cor	nsumption area in	accordance wit	h [THE OPE	RATING PLAN AND] 3 AAC			
306.740;							
(Eff. 4/11/201	9, Register 230; a	m 8/7/2021, Re	egister 239; a	um/, Register			
)	2	•	- /				
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38	3.150	AS 17.38.900			

Register ,	2024
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COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND EC. DEV.

3 AAC 306.380(b) is amended to read:

(b) Before accepting orders for sales of marijuana or marijuana products through a walk-up or drive-through exterior window, a licensed retail marijuana store shall submit <u>information</u>

about the proposed operations [AN OPERATING PLAN OR MODIFICATION OF AN OPERATING PLAN] of the licensed premises to the board for approval. The <u>information</u>

[OPERATING PLAN OR MODIFIED OPERATING PLAN] must <u>include a depiction of</u>

[DEPICT] the walk-up or drive-through exterior window area and the video surveillance of the walk-up or drive-through exterior window area.

(Eff. 8/13/2023, Register 247; am ____/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.190 AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

3 AAC 306.420(2) is amended to read:

(2) <u>information about</u> the proposed marijuana cultivation facility's <u>operations</u> [OPERATING PLAN], <u>which includes a description of</u> [INCLUDING, IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER 3 AAC 306.020(c),]

(Eff. 2/21/2016, Register 217; am ____/____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.190 AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

Register		_2024	COMMER	RCE, COMMUN	NITY, AND EC. DEV
3 AAC 306.5	20(1)(C) is amend	ded to read:			
	(C) <u>info</u>	rmation about	the propos	ed marijuana p	<u>roduct</u>
manu	ıfacturing facility	y's operations	THE APPL	ICANT'S OPER	ATING PLAN
REQU	UIRED UNDER 3	3 AAC 306.020	(c)], which i	ncludes a descri	ption of
(Eff. 2/21/20	16, Register 217;	am 7/27/2017, 1	Register 223	; am 1/22/2023,	Register 245; am
4/16/2023, R	egister 246; am _	//	_, Register)	
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.38	3.150	AS 17.38.200	
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.38	3.190	AS 17.38.900	
	AS 17.38.121				
The introduc	tory language of 3	AAC 306.525	(b) is amend	ed to read:	
(b) A:	n applicant for a <u>n</u>	ı <u>ew</u> marijuana p	oroduct man	ufacturing facili	ty license may request
the board's ap	oproval of the fac	ility's [ITS] into	ended produ	cts [WITH A N]	EW LICENSE
APPLICATION	ON] by including	in its applicati	<u>on</u> [OPERA	TING PLAN]	
(Eff. 2/21/20	16, Register 217;	am 4/16/2023,]	Register 246	; am/	/, Register

Authority: AS 17.38.010 AS 17.38.150 AS 17.38.200

AS 17.38.070 AS 17.38.190 AS 17.38.900

AS 17.38.121

3 AAC 306.615(1)(B) is amended to read:

(B) <u>information about</u> the proposed marijuana testing facility's <u>operations</u> [OPERATING PLAN], <u>which includes a description of</u> [INCLUDING, IN

Register	,	_ 2024	COMMERC	CE, COMMUNIT	Y, AND EC. DEV.
ADD	ITION TO THE I	INFORMATIO	N REQUIREI	O UNDER 3 AAC	306.020(c),]
(Eff. 2/21/20	16, Register 217;	am 1/22/2023,	Register 245;	am//	, Register
)					
Authority:	AS 17.38.010	AS 17.3	8.150	AS 17.38.200	
	AS 17.38.070	AS 17.3	8.190	AS 17.38.900	
	AS 17.38.121				
3 AAC 306.7	03 is repealed:				
3 AA	C 306.703. Oper	ations. Repeale	ed [A LICENS	SED MARIJUANA	A
ESTABLISH	MENT SHALL	OPERATE IN A	ACCORDAN	CE WITH THE O	PERATING PLAN
APPROVED	BY THE BOAR	D. THE LICEN	ISEE MAY R	EQUEST AN OPI	ERATING PLAN
CHANGE IN	ACCORDANC:	E WITH 3 AAC	C 306.100(c)].	(Eff. 5/9/2019, R	egister 230;
repealed	/ / . F	Register)			

From: Jana Weltzin

To: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)

Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored); Randi Baker; Brenda Mills; Jana Weltzin Cc:

Subject: Public Comment regarding Operating Plans Regulation

Date: Friday, September 6, 2024 10:59:42 AM Attachments: Operating plans - JDW 9.6.2024.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello! please see attached public comment. Thanks!

Jana D. Weltzin, Esq.

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Think green, please don't print unnecessarily



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September 6, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Marijuana Control Board:

I am writing to express my opposition at this time to the proposed changes to Operating Plan requirements under 3 AAC 306.

The proposed changes eliminate Operating Plan requirements and replace them with a "Certification" that the regulatory requirements will be met for all license types, transfers, and change documents. As the applications are now, every licensee must submit an MJ-01 for each application unless it is a transfer and there are no changes to the Operating Plan. The MJ-01 covers some of the most important aspects of owning a marijuana license, such as a control plan for persons under the age of 21, security, inventory tracking of all marijuana and marijuana product on the premises, employee qualification and training, health and safety standards, transportation and deliver of marijuana and marijuana products, and signage/advertising. Operating plans are pivotal in ensuring that current and potential licensees have thoroughly considered and prepared for compliance with Alaska's stringent marijuana regulations. These plans also provide the local government and community councils valuable insight as to how the license will be operated.

I do not believe that removing the requirement to submit Operating Plans, creating new processes for the limited available AMCO staff (who will be sans a director) to learn and follow, requiring updated education to local governments and communities (Gabe is no longer with AMCO so it is unclear who will tackle that education), does not expedite the licensing process; instead, it shifts the burden to local governing bodies, and to AMCO staff to learn new processes.

Instead of tackling any new projects right now, it may be wiser for AMCO to focus on becoming more efficient with the work it has in front of them and becoming efficient at its current workload and process. I would recommend shelving this project for a later date and reevaluating when AMCO is on more steady footing.

Truly and Sincerely Yours,

Jana D. Weltzin, Esq.

Date: 9/5/2024

To: Alaska Marijuana Control Board (MCB)

amco.regs@alaska.gov

From: Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA)

president@alaskamia.org



Re: Comment on MCB proposed changes to regulations in Title 3, Chapter 306 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with the operating plan requirements for marijuana applicants.

The Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA) respectfully requests that the Marijuana Control Board table the regulations project related to the amended requirements for operational plans under Title 3, Chapter 306 of the Alaska Administrative Code. While it is the responsibility of applicants to fully understand regulatory requirements, there is concern within the industry about lowering the barriers to entry in a field where knowledge of statutes and regulations is critical for successful operation. These changes primarily impact new licensees, which raises additional concerns.

Feedback from our members indicates that many licensees regularly consult their operational plans to verify approved procedures for handling various situations. We believe that enforcement should play a key role in this discussion, and we would welcome input from the enforcement division on how these regulatory changes might affect their best practices. It is crucial that enforcement has the necessary information to hold licensees accountable and facilitate investigations effectively.

We also recognize the opportunity to strike a balance between certification processes and the use of detailed operational descriptions, especially with newer regulatory requirements like walk-up or drive-through exterior window pick-up for retail marijuana stores. Requiring detailed descriptions during the application process could help protect public health and safety. However, this broader issue may be better addressed during the anticipated rewrite of Title 3, as has been previously discussed by the Marijuana Control Board.

Given the current staffing changes within the office, we respectfully request that these regulatory changes be postponed until the office is fully staffed. Implementing such significant changes now could divert attention from other priorities, such as project management and license renewals, and could have unintended consequences due to the meticulous nature of these proposed changes.

The AMIA appreciates the Marijuana Control Board's trust in licensees and employees by reducing regulatory burdens in a way that supports commerce. We believe that the AMIA, the Marijuana Control Board, and the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office share a common goal: to evolve regulations that best support commerce in the State of Alaska. We value the opportunity to provide feedback and offer guidance from an industry perspective.

Respectfully,

AMIA Board of Directors

From: Ryan Tunseth

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

Cc: Aaron Stiassny; Nick Miller; Brandon Emmett; chelsea foster; Jana Weltzin; Lacy Wilcox; mike; Trevor Haynes;

Kim Kole (via Google Docs); Bailey Stuart

Subject: AMIA Regulations Comment

Date: Friday, September 6, 2024 9:56:32 AM

Attachments: AMIA - Onsite Edibles Requirements Public Comment .pdf
AMIA - Operational Requirements Public Comment[1].pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached are comments from the AMIA regarding the regulation changes proposed for onsite consumption and operating plans.

-AMIA