

---

**THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP ACT, 2021**

---

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

*Section*

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation

**PART II**

**LICENSING OF GROWERS, PROCESSORS, DISTRIBUTORS, BUYERS, EXPORTERS AND  
RESEARCHERS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

3. Licensing by Lead Agency
4. Prohibition from growing, processing, distributing, buying, exporting of  
and researching on industrial hemp without licence
5. Application for licence
6. Issuance of licence
7. Validity of licence
8. Renewal of licence
9. Suspension or revocation of licence
10. Transfer of licence
11. Variation of licence
12. Notice of change of particulars
13. Designation of growing, processing, distributing and buying area
14. Prohibition of cultivation of cannabis on land designated for industrial  
hemp
15. Import and export of industrial hemp seed
16. Industrial hemp seed variety
17. Industrial hemp seed production and multiplication
18. Quality control of industrial hemp

PART III

INSPECTIONS

- 19. Power of authorised Officer
- 20. Obstruction of authorised Officer

PART IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 21. Appeals
- 22. Register
- 23. Submission of annual returns and status report
- 24. General penalty
- 25. Preferential schemes
- 26. Regulations

GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

---

**ACT**

**No. 34 of 2021**

Date of Assent: 19th May, 2021

**An Act to provide for the licensing of growers, processors, distributors, buyers, exporters of and researchers on industrial hemp; provide for the production and multiplication of industrial hemp; provide for the import and export of industrial hemp; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.**

[20th May, 2021

ENACTED by the Parliament of Zambia.

Enactment

PART I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Industrial Hemp Act, 2021, and shall come into operation on the date that the Minister may appoint by statutory instrument.

Short title  
and  
commence-  
ment

**2.** In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretations

“authorised officer” has the meaning assigned to the words in the Cannabis Act, 2021;

Act No. 33  
of 2021

“Committee” has the meaning assigned to the word in the Cannabis Act, 2021;

“Lead Agency” has the meaning assigned to the word in the Cannabis Act, 2021;

Act No. 33  
of 2021

“legally disqualified” means the absence of legal capacity as provided in section 4 of the Mental Health Act, 2019;

Act No. 6 of  
2019

Act No. 6 of  
2019

“licensed activity” means an activity authorised under a licence issued by the Agency;

“licensee” means a person issued with a licence to grow, process, distribute, buy, export or conduct research on industrial hemp under section 5; and

“industrial hemp” means a plant of cannabis and any part or derivative of that plant, including viable seed, whether growing or not with a *delta-9 -tetrahydrocannabinol* concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

## PART II

### LICENSING OF GROWERS, PROCESSORS, DISTRIBUTORS, BUYERS, EXPORTERS AND RESEARCHERS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Licensing by  
Lead Agency

**3.** The Lead Agency shall be responsible for the issuance of licences for the growing, processing, distribution, buying, export and conducting of research on industrial hemp under this Act.

Prohibition  
from  
growing,  
processing,  
distributing,  
buying,  
exporting of  
and  
researching  
on industrial  
hemp  
without  
licence  
Act No. 35  
of 2021

**4.** (1) A person shall not grow, process, distribute, buy, export or conduct research on industrial hemp without a licence issued under this Act.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1), commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a penalty specified in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Application  
for licence

**5.** (1) A person who intends to grow, process, distribute, buy, export or conduct research on industrial hemp shall apply to the Lead Agency in a prescribed manner and form on payment of a prescribed fee.

(2) The Lead Agency shall, on the recommendation of the Committee, within sixty days, of receipt of the application under subsection (1), approve or reject the application.

(3) Where the Lead Agency rejects an application, the Lead Agency shall, within fourteen days of the decision, inform the applicant of the decision stating the reasons for the rejection.

(4) The Lead Agency may request further particulars or information in respect of an application.

<p><b>6.</b> (1) The Lead Agency may, issue a licence under this Act if the—</p> <p>(a) application is in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and</p> <p>(b) applicant is financially and technically capable of meeting the applicant's obligations and the terms and conditions of the licence.</p> <p>(2) A licence issued under subsection (1) shall contain the terms and conditions of the licence as prescribed.</p>	Issuance of licence
<p><b>7.</b> A licence issued under section 6 is valid for a period of five years.</p>	Validity of licence
<p><b>8.</b> (1) A licensee who intends to renew a licence issued under this Act shall apply to the Lead Agency, within sixty days before the expiration of the licence, in a prescribed manner and form on payment of a prescribed fee.</p> <p>(2) The Lead Agency shall, on the recommendation of the Committee, within sixty days of receipt of the application under subsection (1), approve or reject the application.</p> <p>(3) Where the Lead Agency rejects an application to renew a licence, the Lead Agency shall inform the licensee in writing of the decision stating the reasons for the rejection.</p>	Renewal of licence
<p><b>9.</b> (1) The Lead Agency may, in consultation with the Committee, suspend or revoke the licence where the licensee—</p> <p>(a) breaches a condition of the licence;</p> <p>(b) obtained the licence by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact;</p> <p>(c) is legally disqualified to undertake the licenced activity; or</p> <p>(d) is convicted of an offence under this Act or any other written law and sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding six months without an option of a fine.</p> <p>(2) The Lead Agency shall before suspending or revoking a licence under subsection (1), notify the licensee of the Lead Agency's intention to suspend or revoke the licence and shall—</p> <p>(a) state the reasons for the intended suspension or revocation; and</p> <p>(b) require the licensee to show cause, within a period of not more than fourteen days, why the licence should not be suspended or revoked.</p>	Suspension or revocation of licence