

MANAGEMENT: CANNABIS SECURITY

Disclaimer: This lesson is only for states where the cultivating, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale of cannabis is legal. Cannabis is illegal under federal law.

Note: Security requirements for your state may differ from those implemented in other states. In addition, security requirements may differ between counties and cities, and a facility's license type. Presented in this lesson are general security guidelines for cannabis facilities.

INTRODUCTION

With many states legalizing medical and recreational cannabis, dispensaries and cultivation facilities are becoming a common sight around the country. Despite cannabis being legal in many states, there is still a thriving black market for the product. Cannabis facilities are also targeted by thieves due to the easy access of money that may be found onsite. Due to these risks, they are required to ensure that the operations have certain security measures in place for both the protection of the public and their employees.



LIMITED-ACCESS AREAS AND LOCKS

Many states require that cannabis facilities have limited-access areas. These areas should only be accessed by employees or authorized individuals. Depending on the state, authorized individuals may include:

- Outside vendors
- Contractors
- Other individuals conducting business that require access to the limited-access area

In addition to only authorized individuals entering limited-access areas, many states may require the following:

- Identification of limit-access areas by the posting of a sign that meets the state's size requirements and reads as "Do NOT Enter—Restricted Access Area—Authorized Personnel Only." Letter sizing should meet the state's size requirements.
- Employee escorts for authorized individuals who need access to the limited-access area, but are not employees of the cannabis facility.
- A record of all authorized individuals (who are not employees of the cannabis facility) that enter the limited-access area. Records may be required to contain the following information:
 - The name of the individual
 - The company which the individual works
 - The reason the individual entered the limited-access area
 - The date and time the individual entered and exited the limited-access area



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Limited-access areas in many states are required to have a solid door and lock which meet the state's specific requirements. Depending on the state, the door or doors may be required to remain closed when not in use during business hours.

BADGES

Depending on the state, the following persons may be required to have a badge displayed in either a laminated or plastic-coating (that is issued by the cannabis facility) at all times, when engaging in commercial cannabis activities:

- Agents
 - Agents may include employees or other personnel of contracted dispensaries or transportation services.
- Officers
 - Officers may include contracted security personnel.
- Other employees of the dispensary

Badges may be required to have the following information:

- Name and license number of the cannabis facility
- Employee's first name
- Employee exclusive identification number
- A color photograph of the employee that clearly shows the full front of the employee's face

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

No matter which state a cannabis facility is operating in, it is required that the facility have a 24/7 video surveillance system in place. In addition, many states may have certain requirements for the quality of the video. For example, some states require that the cameras have a minimum resolution of 1280x720 pixels and no less than 15 frames per second.

Depending on the state, areas that require a camera may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Areas where cannabis goods are weighed, packed, stored, loaded and unloaded for transportation, prepared, or moved within the dispensary
- Limited-access areas
- Security rooms
- Areas storing a surveillance-system storage device, with at least one camera recording the access points to the secured surveillance recording area
- Entrances and exits

Depending on the state, recordings may need to be kept for a minimum number of days. For instance, some states require that recordings be kept for 90 calendar days.

Note: Some states may require that certain licensees post a notice, meeting the state's specific requirements, advising visitors of the video surveillance system.





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SECURITY PERSONNEL

Depending on the state and type of license, cannabis facilities may be required to contract or hire security personnel. Security personnel must be at least 21 years of age. In addition, security companies that are contracted or hired may need to be licensed with the state.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Many states require that cannabis facilities have some sort of alarm system in addition to video surveillance. Alarm requirements may differ between states, counties, and cities, so employees should become familiar with their company's alarm system policies.

REPORTING

Many states, counties, and cities have reporting requirements in the event of criminal activity occurring. Depending on the state, cannabis facilities are required to report an incident within 24 hours.

Depending on the state, cannabis facilities may be required to report on any of the following:

- The discovery of a significant discrepancy in inventory
- The discovery of diversion, theft or loss of product, or any other criminal activity that happens during the operation of the cannabis facility
- The discovery of diversion, theft or loss of product, or any other criminal activity that is performed by an agent or employee of the cannabis facility
- The loss or unauthorized alteration of records
- Any breach of security

CULTIVATOR REQUIREMENTS

If the facility is a cultivator, in addition to the above, the facility also needs to meet with the following requirements.

TRACK-AND-TRACE

Depending on the state, county, and/or city, cultivators may be required to have a "Track-and-Trace" system in place. "Track-and-Trace" systems may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Name and type of the cannabis or cannabis goods
- A unique identifier of the cannabis or cannabis goods
- The amount of cannabis or cannabis goods by weight or count
- Date and time of an activity associated with the cannabis or cannabis goods
- Name and license number of other licensees involved in activity or transaction of cannabis or cannabis goods
- Shipping manifest records
- Cannabis destruction or disposal records





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FENCING/BARRIERS

Depending on the state, county, or city, outdoor cultivators may be required to have fencing, or some other type of barrier that meet the specific requirements. Requirements may include, but are not limited to:

- The fence or barrier being constructed of certain materials. For example, some states require six-gauge metal or chain link
- Specific height requirements. For example, some states require a fence to be at least 8 feet in height.
- Be topped with razor wire or similar security wire
- Have materials or use methods that obscure the sight of the grow

CONCLUSION

While cannabis facilities are becoming a more common sight across the nation, due to how money is stored and the product itself, these places of business are popular targets for criminals. To help protect the product, employees, and the public, all states that have legalized cannabis (for either medical or recreational purposes) have certain security requirements that facilities must put into place. Security requirements can differ between states, counties, and cities, so all employees should become familiar with their company's security requirements.

