



British Columbia Cannabis Retail Store Licensing

Overview:

If you are an individual (sole proprietor), partnership, or corporation looking to apply for a cannabis retail store licence, here is some key information regarding the application process to sell non-medical cannabis and cannabis accessories in British Columbia.

Eligibility:

- To be eligible to apply, you must own, lease, or have an agreement to lease the proposed retail store location and each retail store requires a separate licence.
- Applicants must be registered in B.C. as sole proprietors, partnerships or corporations and have their 9-digit Business number (issued by the Canada Revenue Agency) to apply for a Business BCeID (one time registration) in order to submit an application.
- You do not need to be a citizen or resident of B.C. or Canada.
- All applicants must be at least 19 years old.
- At this time, federal licensed producers of cannabis are not eligible for a cannabis retail store licence, however this may change in the future when the federal government issues 'micro-cultivation' producer licences.

Application Process:

The process may differ depending on the applicant, whether you're a private corporation, public corporation, sole proprietor, partnership, or society, but generally, the application process is going to look like this:

<p>1. Submit Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The application requires information about the applicant and associates, proposed location and any other licences held by the applicant.▪ Consent for security screening and financial integrity checks.▪ Declaration of financial, business or family connections to any federal licensed cannabis producers and retail licence holders.▪ Application fee*.	<p>2. Local Government Recommendation/ Store Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If a proposed store is located in the area of local government, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch must provide notice of the application to the local government for conditional approval.▪ Once granted, make sure the terms and conditions of the licence are met and make changes to the store to match the description submitted with the application – floor plan, exterior signage, window coverings, etc.	<p>3. Pass a Store Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch inspectors will assess whether the store meets the provincial regulation and requirements established by the applicable local government.▪ Prospective licensees can schedule their inspection when ready.▪ The applicant will not be authorized to possess cannabis until the licence application has been approved.
---	---	--

<p>4. Receive a Licence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful applicants will receive a licence after the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch has confirmed that all licence requirements have been met, the inspection has been passed, and the licensing fee* has been received by the government. ▪ Licensees must display the licence in a prominent place in their store. 	<p>5. Register and Train Employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All employees must be registered with the Province before they can be employed in a non-medical cannabis store. ▪ Local governments may also have business licence requirements regarding employees. More information about registration and training will be available soon. 	<p>6. Order and Sale of Cannabis Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Before a licensee can order cannabis products, they must register with the Liquor Distribution Branch. ▪ Licensees can only sell products purchased from the Liquor Distribution Branch and are not authorized to sell cannabis online. ▪ The Province will control online sales of cannabis through its provincially operated cannabis stores. ▪ Licensees will need a licence number to place orders. ▪ All sales and inventory must be reported on a regular basis.
---	--	---

❖ Application fee of \$7,500.00 (includes security screening and financial integrity checks, plus a \$1,500.00 first-year licensing fee.

❖ Once a licence is issued, the licensee must pay an annual renewal fee of \$1,500.00 and pay a fee (TBD) to undergo security screening every 2 years.

A more detailed guide for applicants can be found at the [B.C. Government Website](#).

For more information or to connect with one of our lawyers, please feel free to contact us at inquiries@segev.ca or 604-629-5400.