Guidance on Mailing Raw Industrial Hemp

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is working with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) to help reduce the potential of your legal parcels of raw industrial hemp being referred by postal employees to USPIS. MDARD will regularly provide a list of current, registered industrial hemp growers to USPIS to review as a first step before seizure. The department is permitted to provide grower registration information to law enforcement agencies under the Industrial Hemp Growers Act.

MDARD and USPIS are offering the following suggestions regarding packaging and mailing raw industrial hemp to licensed processors or testing laboratories:

Packaging raw industrial hemp

- Include the laboratory test result (known as a Certificate of Analysis or COA) of the official regulatory samples analyzed by MDARD's Geagley Laboratory showing hemp was tested and has a compliant THC level. As a reminder, cannabis lots must be sampled by the department or a MDARD-approved sampling agent prior to harvest.
- If possible, place a QR code linked directly to the COA on the outside of the box next to the mailing label. If the link can also include a copy of your grower registration it will help ensure your parcel reaches its destination and eliminates the need for paperwork inside your parcel. If you cannot use a QR code, include copies of both the COA and registration inside the parcel.
- Include a phone number under the return address. Make sure the return address used is the same address shown on your hemp grower registration.
- Do not use boxes with "carry holes" to minimize odor escape.
- Package your product professionally. Use clear or brown packaging tape – no duct tape or masking tape. Consider using typed labels rather than handwritten. The less professional the packaging, the more likely it will be referred to USPIS.

Mailing raw industrial hemp

- Use registered mail. It is the safest way to mail and your parcel can be insured.
- Research state, federal, and export requirements for any specific paperwork or permits needed by the originating location, travel-through locations, and destination.
- Contact the recipient for recommendations. MDARD-licensed hemp processor-handlers or Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency-licensed marijuana processors and reputable testing laboratories should be able to provide guidance to hemp growers on how to successfully ship parcels.

In addition to MDARD providing grower registration information, USPIS offers a program for growers to provide their registration, documentation, and contact information directly to them. This aids USPIS in maintaining a real-time list of registered growers and can help growers reduce paperwork inside packaging. Contact USPIS Postal Inspector and ANP Program Manager Jeff Agster at 602-721-3561 for details on their program.

Questions regarding MDARD's Industrial Hemp Program, contact them by calling 800-292-3939 or email MDARD-Industrialhemp@michigan.gov.