

# MIOSHA Fact Sheet



## Medical Marihuana Industry – Potential Health and Safety Hazards

### Introduction

The complicated nature of the hazards present in the medical marihuana industry highlights the need for careful attention to safety and health at all types of marihuana businesses. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an overview of the safety and health hazards that *may* be present in the cultivation, processing, and sale of marijuana. **Not all hazards listed in this guide may be present at a given facility. Conversely, there may be additional hazards not listed within the scope of this guide that may be present at a given facility.** This guide is intended to provide a starting point for the identification and control of occupational safety and health hazards in this evolving industry.

### Safety and Health Management System (SHMS)

Identifying and controlling workplace hazards begins with an effective SHMS. Such a system typically consists of five critical elements that apply safety and health management practices of employers who have been successful in protecting the safety and health of their employees. An effective SHMS depends on:

- **Management Commitment and Planning**
- **Employee Involvement**
- **Safety and Health Training**
- **Worksite Analysis**
- **Hazard Prevention and Control**

### Potential Safety and Health Hazards

- Carbon dioxide used to enrich growing environment.
- Chemicals used as plant nutrients and chemicals used to clean and sanitize equipment.
- Chemicals used to extract essential oils from plant materials.
- Dusts from growing or processing environments.

- Noise from growing and processing equipment, i.e. generators or processing machinery.
- Unguarded machinery and equipment.
- Powered industrial trucks, i.e. lift trucks.

### Standards that May Impact the Industry

[Part 700. Agriculture](#) (not a complete list):

- Air contaminants (e.g., carbon dioxide)
- Respiratory protection
- Noise
- Fire suppression systems
- Ventilation

[Part 42, 92, 430. Hazard Communication](#)

- Written program
- Safety data sheets
- Labeling
- Employee training

[Part 1. General Provision](#)

- Housekeeping
- Machine controls, guarding, and devices
- Compressed air

[Part 2. Walking-Working Surfaces](#)

[Part 6. Fire Exits](#)

[Part 21. Powered Industrial Trucks](#)

- Operator training, testing, and permits
- Care and use of powered industrial trucks
- Specifications of equipment

Part [33](#) and [433](#). Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Perform a Job Hazard Assessment (JHA)
- Certification of hazard assessment
- Selection of PPE

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

- Employee training
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Clean and sanitize multi-user PPE
- [PPE guide and sample certification](#) (doc)

#### Part 451. Respiratory Protection

If employer requires the use of respirators or such are required, the standard sets forth minimum requirements.

- Designate qualified program administrator
- Provide respirators, training, and medical surveillance at no cost to employees

Written program requirements:

- Selection procedure
- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing procedures
- Procedures for proper use and maintenance
- Employee training
- Program evaluation

#### Part 380. Occupational Noise Exposure

When information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed the action level of 85 dBA as an 8-hour time-weighted average:

- Develop and implement a noise-monitoring program to evaluate employee noise exposure.
- If noise monitoring results exceed the action level, a hearing conservation program is required.
- What information may indicate exposure above the action level? Workplace noise levels that interfere with normal conversation (i.e., raising voice to be heard over background noise).

#### Part 472. Medical Services and First Aid

- Medical assistance – When required to have first aid providers onsite.
- Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available.
- Emergency eyewash and shower requirements.

#### Part 474. Sanitation

- Housekeeping and waste disposal
- Vermin control
- Water supply
- Provision of toilet facilities
- Food/beverage storage and consumption

#### Part 301. Air Contaminants

- Carbon dioxide used in some processes that extract substances from plant material.
- Other chemicals may also be used in the extraction process.

**Please visit the MIOSHA website at [www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards](http://www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards) for additional information on MIOSHA standards; or contact the Consultation, Education and Training Division at (517) 284-7720 for free assistance.**

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Colorado Department of Health and Environment – [Marijuana Safety and Health](#)
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries – [Cannabis Industry Safety and Health \(Marijuana\)](#)
- Suggested Format for a Written Hazard Communication Program – [Sample Written Plan](#)
- [PPE guide and sample certification](#)