

BFS CANNABIS DIVISION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BFS Cannabis Division Inspection Questions

Inspection Scheduling Questions

Q. Can we have scheduled or assigned semi-annual inspections instead of unannounced inspections?
A. BFS Cannabis Division has looked at the option of having more scheduled inspections and it is difficult to accomplish. We do schedule some of our inspections such as new facilities and construction projects. However, when it comes to semi-annual inspections, it would be very time consuming and hectic for a fire inspector to try to schedule their monthly workload. We are averaging over 300 semi-annual inspections per month which would require 300 emails or phone calls and then trying to schedule them so they line-up in the same city or town would be problematic. Currently, semi-annual inspections will have to remain as unscheduled inspections.

Q. Are there future plans to increase the number of inspectors? Can inspectors be limited to only one grow facility inspection per day?

A. Unfortunately, due to the travel times to reach portions of Michigan, especially in the Upper Peninsula, and the number of licensed grow facilities, BFS will not be able to limit grow facility inspections to one per day. BFS inspectors are aware of issues with bugs and BFS inspectors do follow all gowning and precautionary procedures at grow facilities.

Q. Why does BFS conduct semi-annual (one every 6 months) fire safety inspections?

A. The Rules allow for BFS Cannabis Division to conduct inspections twice a year for cannabis facilities. BFS has found this requirement to be important due to all the changes that we come across that are not processed correctly through the Reporting Form procedure. The best way BFS has found to maintain compliance is by conducting two inspections every year.

Onsite Inspection Questions

Q. What can I expect when a fire safety inspection occurs?

A. The BFS inspector will introduce themselves and then conduct the inspection with the facility contact person. The BFS inspector will walk through all parts of the building, looking into every room and testing for such things as aisle spacing between tables, emergency lights, CO2 detection, sprinkler systems, common path of travel issues, stairs, vertical protection, exit doors, egress out of the building, spray on foam insulation, hanging plastic, and other issues. The BFS inspector would inform the facility if they passed or failed the inspection on that day. For a failed inspection, the items will be written on an inspection report, which will be sent out electronically. Items not in compliance will have to be corrected.

Q. Can plastic curtains be used to section off a room? To meet CRA Requirements, I need to separate off a section of a larger room and was hoping to use a plastic curtain.

A. No. NFPA 1 (2021) Section 38.5.4.2 states that the hanging of plastic from the ceiling or from suspended overhead structures to create wall dividers is not permitted. Plastic can't be used as a wall. Plastic or plastic materials can be 'applied' to a wall as a finish – only if it has been tested per Sections 12.5 and 12.6 of NFPA 1. Refer to Section 38.5.4.1 for plastic as an interior finish on a wall or ceiling.

Q. Can we have a 'Train the Trainer' staff member that is qualified to instruct new extraction operators in order to meet the training requirements for Section 38.6.1.4 of NFPA 1?

A. Maybe. NFPA 1 (2021) Section 38.6.1.4 requires extraction operators receive training in safe operations of the equipment. This is accomplished by the training programs developed by extraction equipment manufacturers. If the manufacturer has developed a 'Train the Trainer' program, then provide the documentation to BFS for review.

Q. How can a facility get regularly inspected every six months and pass each time and then have a new/different inspector deem that there are fire safety deficiencies, even when things have not changed?

A. There are typically two cases when this can happen. One is when an error has occurred. The facility has to understand that 'approval' is not 'compliance'. At BFS, we strive to be as accurate as possible and try to inspect everything to the Code (NFPA 1). If a facility gets approval from BFS and we later find that an item is not in compliance (an error was made), we have to require compliance. This will often lead to having the facility make corrections or renovations. The second case where this can happen is when the new inspector may be interpreting the Code differently. In this case, have the inspector provide and explain the Code section that they are citing. If the facility is not in agreement with the explanation, provide a detailed email to LARA-BFS-Cannabis@michigan.gov and it will be reviewed by other staff.

Q. What version of NFPA does the current Rule set adopt?

A. The Cannabis Rules reference NFPA 1, the 2021 edition. In NFPA 1, Chapter 2 references a lot of other NFPA Codes and Standards. NFPA 101, the 2021 edition is referenced by NFPA 1.

Q. Where can I find helpful information about pulling 'local' permits for projects?

A. The Bureau of Construction Codes has a Statewide Jurisdiction list for Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing disciplines. Here is a link to that list: [The Statewide Jurisdiction List is a listing of all units of government within the state \(michigan.gov\)](#)