



BARBADOS MEDICINAL  
CANNABIS LICENSING  
AUTHORITY

# IMPORT LICENSE GUIDE

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**Let's Grow Together**



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The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019 (the Act) establishes that an application for a license must be filed with the regulatory body, the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA), in the form and manner specified by the Act and the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Regulations, 2020, (the Regulations) and must include all the information required.

**This Import Guide provides general terms and conditions for the operation of an Import License within the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry.**

**This Guide should be read in conjunction with the Act, the Regulations, and the General License Guide and is intended to supplement the provisions of the Regulations.**

**It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that there are familiar with this Guide and the Regulations. Your application may be denied, or your operations delayed if you fail to meet the requirements outlined.**

The BMCLA is committed to protecting personal information as well as confidential business information that is under its possession. Ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information is essential to the regulator's decision making and the delivery of services. The BMCLA recognizes that the protection of this information is an essential element in maintaining public trust.

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Disclaimer: This document is a living document, which may be updated and changed by the BMCLA as we see fit. Users are advised to ensure they are using the most recent version. In the case of any discrepancies between this document and the Act and its Regulations, please seek direction from the BMCLA.

# CONTENTS

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

04

Foreword

05

Glossary

06

Purpose

07

Background

08

General Requirements

# FOREWORD

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The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019 (the Act) was proclaimed on September 30, 2020. It establishes the conditions under which the Medicinal Cannabis Industry in Barbados will operate. Provisions for the licensing regime, patient access to medicinal cannabis and the establishment of the regulating Authority, the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (herein referred to as the BMCLA) and its Board are all found within the Act. Further, the Act is supported by the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Regulations, 2020 (the Regulations).

As a signatory to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, Barbados has an obligation to adopt measures that allow for the careful movement of cannabis including the supervision of the importation in a manner consistent with these international drug control conventions. The import and export of cannabis may only be authorized for medical and scientific purposes and within the parameters set by international drug conventions.

**Again, this guidance document should be read with reference to both the Act and the Regulations. The intent is to provide further direction to the applicant based on the provisions established in the aforementioned documents. It also sets out the rules and regulations for an import license.**

Section 4 (1) of the Act provides for the BMCLA to develop policies, procedures and guidelines for the industry. Additionally, section 4 (2) of the Regulations also provides the BMCLA with the right to request any additional information that pertains to the licensee, its agents or directors and that is necessary to consider the application. It is the responsibility of all applicants to make sure that they are aware of all rules, regulations and policies which pertain to their application and operations.

The BMCLA is not responsible for any circumstance in which an applicant or licensee might find themselves non-compliant due to lack of awareness of the necessary requirements.

This document, while aimed at being comprehensive, may not contain every answer an individual may need, in those cases, it is suggested that the applicants contact the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority at [clo@bmcla.bb](mailto:clo@bmcla.bb) or visit the Authority's website [www.bmcla.bb](http://www.bmcla.bb).

The overall intent of the regulatory framework, including all guidelines governing the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry, is to ensure patient safety and the administration of an orderly and efficient industry.



# GLOSSARY

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## **Medicinal cannabis products**

Medicinal cannabis products mean any oral medicinal cannabis product or topical medicinal cannabis product whether solid or liquid which is made from cannabis, cannabis material or cannabis resin.



# PURPOSE

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This license speaks to the **importation of cannabis plants, (including cuttings), raw material, tissue culture and seeds.**

This license only permits the importation of **medicinal cannabis products** for Research and Development or Laboratory licensees. All other importation of medicinal cannabis products is regulated by the Barbados Drug Service under the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

As per Regulation (3) the importation of hemp starting materials is expressly prohibited.

The importation of CDB products is regulated by the Barbados Drug Service under the Ministry of Health and Wellness.



# BACKGROUND

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The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019, (the Act) and Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Regulations, 2020, (the Regulations) provide, among other things, the framework for legal access to medicinal cannabis, control and regulation of medicinal cannabis use and commercial engagement in Barbados. It in no way makes legal the use in the production, manufacturing and handling of cultivation or production of cannabis for any purpose other than that as stated under the Act. The Act lays out the allowance under which persons can engage in medicinal cannabis within the jurisdiction of the Barbados Government.

The Act speaks to the establishment of the Authority, the allowance for the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes which must be prescribed by a doctor and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist (as defined under the Pharmacy Act, Cap. 372D). The Act also makes provision for the establishment, licensing, regulation, monitoring, control and enforcement of the medicinal cannabis industry by the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA). It established eight (8) different types of licenses and tiers and gives the Authority the right and responsibility for the importation, cultivation, processing, exportation, transportation, analyzing as well as research and development of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

Under this framework, a person is required to obtain a license issued by the BMCLA in order to conduct various activities with cannabis for medicinal purposes. Applicants and license holders are responsible for compliance with the Act and the Regulations as well as compliance with other applicable laws as made by the Government of Barbados.

The Act establishes that an application for a license must be submitted to the Authority in the form and manner specified by the industry regulations and must include all requested information and supplemental documentation as requested. This guide sets out the application process including the form and manner for submitting an application and the information that is required.

The BMCLA will publish other guidance documents and information as needed on its website ([www.bmcla.bb](http://www.bmcla.bb)) that may be used in conjunction with this document to assist applicants in preparing their applications. In order to maintain consistency and transparency, this guide, as well as other guidance documents and information, will be updated, as required, to reflect changes to policies and/or operations.

# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that they meet all the requirements and protocols established by the Plant Quarantine Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Customs and Excise Department for the importation of plant materials.

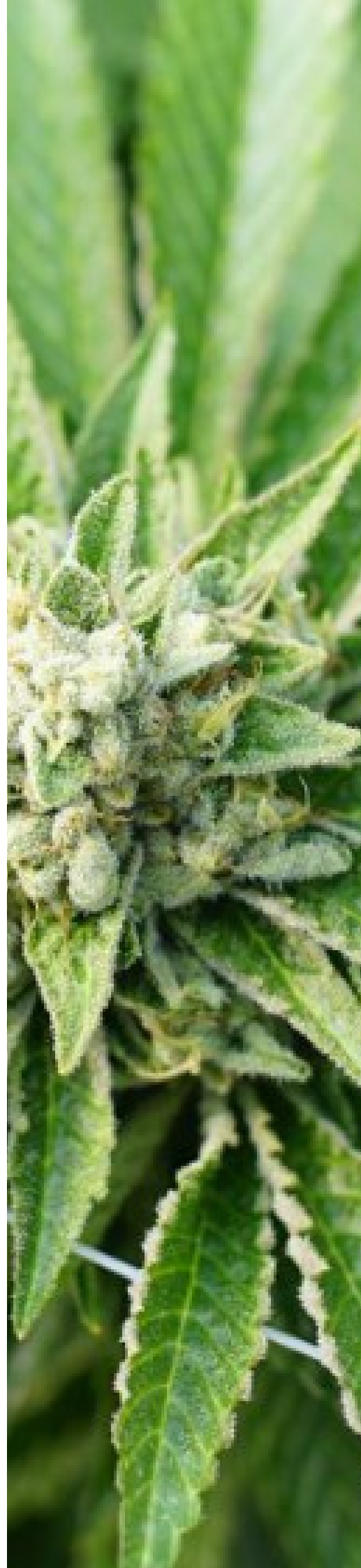
## 1. Import Authorization Certificate

1.1. Consistent with international drug conventions, importing (or exporting) cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes requires a permit from the BMCLA for each shipment.

## 2. Importation of Cannabis Plants, Raw Material, Seeds & Tissue Culture

2.1. After receiving a license to import cannabis materials licensees must:

- Pursuant to Regulation 21 (a), licensees must fill out an **Import Authorization Certificate Form** (see [Appendix A](#)), this must be done for every instance of importation and must be done two (2) months prior to the proposed importation.
- Pursuant to Regulation 21 (c), licensees must also present an authorization certificate issued by the relevant Authority in the exporting country. This should be attached to the submission of Import Authorization Certificate Form.
- If approved, the BMCLA will issue a Certificate. Once issued with the certificate from the BMCLA, in keeping with the Barbados Plant Protection Act, 2007, licensees must then apply to the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security for an import permit and meet all the import requirements they request.
- Licensees are responsible for providing copies of the Certificate issued by the BMCLA upon request to relevant agencies including the Plant Protection Department and the Customs and Excise Department.





- Upon receipt of the import permit from the Plant Quarantine department, the importer can now proceed to import material as specified.

### **3. Importation of Medicinal Cannabis Products**

3.1. The importation of medicinal cannabis products is not under the ambit of the BMCLA except in one specific case as specified below:

- Medicinal Cannabis Products can only be imported under license from the BMCLA by Research and Development or Laboratory License holders for the explicit purposes of activities related to Laboratory, and Research and Development.
- Holders of these licensees (Research and Development and Laboratory) must also fill out an **Import Authorization Certificate Form**, as specified above, for each instance of importation.
- The certification, once issued, may be required by other agencies to facilitate your import.

### **4. Consolidated Shipments**

4.1. Licensees are required to indicate on the form if the shipment is consolidated and how many shipments are included.

4.2. Licensees are required to attach the details as listed below on a separate sheet for each shipment included in the planned consolidated shipment.

4.3. Any additional information relevant to the import, which cannot fit on the form, may be attached on a separate sheet.

### **5. Denial of Request**

5.1. Before issuing an import permit, the BMCLA will consider the following:

- Barbados' obligations under international treaties;
- Whether the application is consistent with the relevant provisions in the Act and the Regulations;

- Whether the import will be used solely for medicinal or scientific purposes; and
- Whether there are risks to public safety and security, including the risks of diversion.

## **6. Denial of Import Authorization Certificate**

6.1. The BMCLA may deny any request for a certificate under the following circumstances:

- where an applicant has not shown sufficient documentation to support the application;
- where the import of the material may jeopardize allowable limits established internationally or nationally;
- where there is evidence to suggest that the intended import is not for use in the medicinal market; and
- any other circumstance that the BMCLA believes to be in the interest of the development of the industry in Barbados and its compliance with international treaties.

## **7. Restrictions**

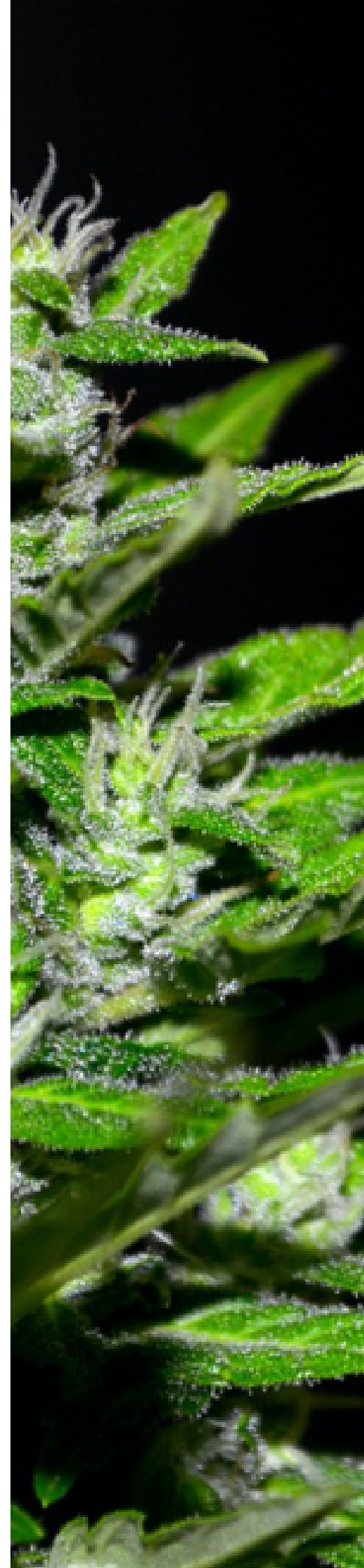
7.1. Per Regulation 21 (a), the BMCLA has the right to restrict the strains of cannabis materials and the type of cannabis products which can be imported.

The BMCLA has determined that there will be no restricted list including restrictions on the THC and CBD levels at this time. The determination will be done on a case-by-case basis as import permission is requested.

7.2. Per Regulation 21 (b), the requirement to only import from a country or place in which medicinal cannabis is legal also includes the classification of state or region.

## **8. Registration of Strains**

8.1. The BMCLA may require the registration of imported strains.



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## **9. Obligatory Import Licenses**

9.1. Pursuant to section 31 (2) a & b holders of Research and Development, and Laboratory licenses will automatically receive an Import & Export License. The import license granted in this circumstance is limited to activities directly related to those specific operations.

9.2. Regardless of the granting of the obligatory import license, in every case the importer must still seek an Import Authorization Certificate.

## **10. After Importation**

10.1. Within fifteen (15) days of import, the importer shall notify the BMCLA in writing (via email or letter) that the items were received. This notification should carry the licensee's information, license number and details of shipment.

## **11. Expiration of Authorization**

11.1. Each import authorization is valid for a period of six (6) months beyond the original date of planned import.

11.2. Once the authorization has expired, no licensee may use it to import cannabis material of any kind and must reapply for a new authorization.

## **12. Changes to Import Details**

12.1. Each authorization for which the details have changed, including the place and person receiving the export, requires a new authorization.

The licensee should notify the BMCLA by email and fill out a new authorization form.

## Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority

## Import Authorization Certificate Form

- I. This form should be used to apply for permission to import cannabis for medical or scientific purposes under the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority Regulations, 2020.
- II. Each import authorization is valid for a period of six months beyond the original date of planned import.
- III. Each authorization must be accompanied by an authorization certificate/letter issued by the relevant authority in the exporting country (As detailed in the import guidelines).
- IV. For consolidated shipments Licensees are required to attach the details as listed below on a separate sheet for each shipment included in the planned consolidated shipment.
- V. Any additional information which can not fit on the form may be attached on a separate sheet.

## Section 1: License holder information

Name of license holder

License number

## Section 2: Transit details

Shipment Type

Single Shipment ☐Consolidated Shipment ☐

If consolidated please advise how many shipments are included \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Exporter

Address of Exporter

Contact Person

Contact Number

Email

Port of exit

Port of Entry into Barbados

Any country of transit or transshipment, if applicable

### Section 3: Shipment details

Anticipated shipment date, if known

Purpose of Import

- ☐ Cultivation  
☐ Processing  
☐ Research & Development or Laboratory  
☐ Other

Cannabis Material(s) to be imported

Planting Material

- Plant ☐  
Seeds ☐  
Tissue Culture ☐  
Raw Cannabis ☐

Medicinal Products (R&D & Laboratory Licensees only)

- Oral Medicinal Product ☐  
Topical Medicinal Product ☐

Name of Shipping Company Used

Contact Details

Details of the import (strain & use)

Brand name, if applicable

Quantity of Cannabis material or product — this is based on the manner in which the items are packaged (e.g. total of 500 seeds in 1 box, consisting of 5 packets of 100 seeds per packet)

The percentage of THC w/w and CBD w/w of the cannabis, (except in the case of cannabis plant, seeds and tissue culture)

### Section 4: Competent authority authorization

\*Attach the import permit/authorization from the competent authority in the country of import.

### Section 5: Attestation

I hereby attest that all of the information submitted in the support of the application is true and correct and completed to the best of my knowledge and that any exported cannabis is for medical or scientific purposes only

Signature

Name of Representative of Licensee

Date

N.B w/w. (chemistry) "weight for weight" or "weight by weight", the proportion of a particular substance within a mixture as measured by weight or mass.





## **BARBADOS MEDICINAL CANNABIS LICENSING AUTHORITY**

**Let's Grow Together**

# **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

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For further information on the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) or the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry, please contact us:



[clo@bmcla.bb](mailto:clo@bmcla.bb)



246-421-4141



Concierge Desk

Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority

Warrens House, Warrens, St Michael.



[www.bmcla.bb](http://www.bmcla.bb)