



# News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission  
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April 17, 2020

## Commission Approves Random Testing of Marijuana Products Action Stems From 2019 Vaping Crisis

Commission Also Approves Temporary Rule on Pre-License Application Inspections

Approves Stipulated Marijuana Settlements for Licensee Violations

**PORTLAND, OR.** – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has given the go-ahead for random testing of marijuana products for the presence of undisclosed ingredients and additives. The Commission approved the permanent rule for Audit, Compliance and Random Testing at its regular monthly meeting on April 16, 2020.

OLCC staff recommended the testing approach in the wake of the 2019 EVALI respiratory illness outbreak. That public health crisis resulted in the hospitalizations and deaths of hundreds of people known to vape nicotine and cannabis. In Oregon 22 people were afflicted with vaping-associated lung injuries, including two fatalities.

During the vaping crisis OLCC took the position that specific additives suspected of being contained in nicotine and cannabis vaping products were adulterants and based on existing OLCC rules should not to be contained in marijuana products. But the OLCC lacked specific authority to require random sampling and testing to detect adulterants and other contaminants in the marijuana products of licensees. The rule, which takes effect April 20, 2020, changes that. **[OAR 845-025-5760]**

The Commission also approved a temporary rule related to the pre-licensing inspections of recreational marijuana license applicants to align with the social distancing requirements of Governor Brown's Executive Orders.

For the next six months the OLCC will not require an in-person inspection by OLCC staff of a proposed licensed premises. This will reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by limiting contact between Commission staff and license applicants. **[OAR 845-025-1290]**

"This is similar to the recent temporary change we made to our rules to allow licensed retailers to provide curbside delivery," said Steve Marks, OLCC Executive Director. "We're saying to the cannabis industry 'we expect you to act responsibly' and applicants are expected to abide by all of the rules. If they do not they will be subject to violations and the OLCC will act quickly in order to ensure public safety."

After four years of licensing Oregon's cannabis industry, the Commission has greater confidence that licensees and license applicants are knowledgeable about OLCC regulations and can accept greater responsibility for meeting regulatory requirements.

-More-

April 16, 2020  
OLCC Commission Meeting - Marijuana

The Commission also ratified the following marijuana violation fines and suspensions based on stipulated settlement:

**TREES PORTLAND** in Portland will pay a \$6,435 fine **or** serve a 39-day suspension for two recreational retailer marijuana license violations.

**Licensee** is Trees Portland, LLC; Trevor Hoffman, Member/Mgr.; Gregory Goodman, Member/Mgr.

**FERN RIDGE FARMS\*** will either pay a \$3,795 fine **and** serve a 21-day suspension **or** serve a 44-day suspension for four recreational marijuana producer license violations.

**Licensee** is JR Organic Farms, LLC; Rod Eisenberg, Member.

**ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES\*** will surrender its recreational marijuana producer license for six violations. Each licensee agrees to accept a letter of reprimand.

**Licensee** is Alternative Remedies, LLC; Bryan Malicke, Member; Peter Hale, Member.

\*The locations of OLCC marijuana producer, processor and wholesale licensees are exempt from public disclosure under Oregon law.

A copy of the Stipulated Settlement Agreements for Marijuana Violation Cases can be found on the [OLCC website](#), on the Laws & Rules page under the [Final Orders](#) section.

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