

GUIDANCE ON REQUIRED REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE-BASED SAMPLING FOR RESEARCH PERMITS

Because hemp plant material produced under PA Hemp Research Permits will not be used commercially, the reporting and sampling requirements for those permits will be different from the standard reporting and sampling requirements as specified in the PA Hemp General Permit Guidelines. This document lists the requirements for research permit reporting. ***PLEASE NOTE: that there is no change to the required FSA reporting for research permits.***

I. PLANTING REPORTING:

- A. There is no minimum size of planting required for research permits. (*Minimum sizes for plantings specified in the PA Hemp General Permit Guidelines are for standard growing permits.*)
- B. Submit a report within 10 days of the first planting with information requested on the planting report for each variety planted. ***If there will be multiple replications of the varieties planted, it is only necessary to list each variety once on the report.***
 - field/grow room name (A general field location is sufficient rather than locations of each planting replication.)
 - GPS
 - Variety
 - Seeds/cuttings/transplants
 - Source
 - Area planted (A total square footage/acreage is sufficient rather than areas of each planting replication.)
 - Date of the first planting
- C. In a note made on the report or in an attachment stating how often these varieties will be planted (i.e. every 5 days for 2 months, etc.).
- D. If new varieties would be added through the season, then a new report would be submitted. Otherwise, the first report is the only one required.

II. PERFORMANCE-BASED SAMPLING:

- A. Testing will not be required for varieties that are designated as fiber or seed varieties.
- B. For CBD varieties, sampling is **to be conducted by researchers** according to the needs of their research, following PDA's approved sampling method. Records are to be maintained by researchers.
- C. Research Institutions may be subject to inspections and audit sampling by the Department.
- D. For hemp research lots which tested above acceptable Total THC %, the non-compliance must be noted on the Crop Loss Report.
- E. For hemp research lots which are tested and the resulting Total THC % exceeds 1%, a negligent violation shall be assessed. Accumulation of this type of negligent violation will not lead to revocation of a research permit.

III. CROP LOSS REPORTING:

- A. Following the analysis required by the research, all hemp crops/material must be destroyed, *unless the research relies on maintaining seed/genetic material*. A Crop Loss Report must be submitted to the Hemp Program within 10 days of the final crop destruction.
- B. The following methods of on-property destruction may be used.
 - i. Plowing utilizing curved plow blades. Plowing under using curved plow blades to assure the plow rotates subsoil to the surface and buries the hemp crop below.
 - ii. Mulching and Composting – Field crops shall be cut, mulched into fine pieces and blended with manure or other biomass material.
 - iii. Disking utilizing a disk that levels the hemp crop and cuts and rotates the hemp crop plant parts and materials into the subsoil.
 - iv. Utilize a Brush mower or Chopper – A commercial 6x6 pull behind mower, forage chopper or commercial lawn mower used to shred and mix thick vegetation.
 - v. Deep burial through digging a trench in the fields and filling it with the cut and uprooted hemp plants along with the surface soil. Plants, soil and materials shall be buried at a depth of at least 12 inches.
 - vi. Where not forbidden by local or state ordinances or regulations, burning the hemp plant material by setting fire to the specific production fields, or plants piled on the specific production fields. All necessary safety precautions and permits for such an activity are the responsibility of the permittee.
 - vii. Other methods of rendering the hemp material un-usable must be verified as acceptable by the Hemp Program staff (email: RA-AGPLHEMP@pa.gov; phone: 223-666-2561).