

To: All Licensees
From: Cannabis Control Board, Compliance Division
Date: March 6, 2025
Re: Unauthorized Cannabis Competitions and Transfers

At the request of licensees, the Cannabis Control Board amended its administrative rules in October of 2023 to allow cannabis competitions.

Competition samples must meet the following requirements:

- i Cultivators may provide samples to bona fide evaluative contests with the express written authorization of the Board.*
- ii Samples will be limited to the following aggregate amounts per evaluative contest: eight grams per strain of flower, and no more than seven strains of flower.*
- iii Competition samples must be labeled: COMPETITION SAMPLE NOT FOR RESALE.*
- iv Samples must be designated and identified in the Inventory Tracking System.*

Rule 2.3.9(c).

A CCB license authorizes rule-compliant commercial cannabis activities within the scope of the particular license type. A CCB license or employee identification card does not grant any special authority to possess, transport, or transfer cannabis for unregulated recreational, social, or promotional purposes. Knowing and unlawful possession of more than two ounces of cannabis remains a crime. 18 V.S.A. § 4230. From time to time, organizers and promoters encourage CCB licensees to participate in unsanctioned competitions that may expose participants to serious administrative, civil, and criminal penalties.

The CCB Compliance Division is aware that retailers are selling “Weedchuck Competition Entry Homegrown Kits” and “Weedchuck Competition Entry Professional Kits.”

The competition in question has not been authorized by the CCB as required by 2.3.9(c)(i). As we understand it, participating CCB licensees necessarily would commit serious violations, including transporting or storing cannabis from an unlicensed source, in the case of home growers and those collecting their cannabis, or diverting cannabis from the regulated system, in the case of licensed cultivators and those collecting their cannabis. There appear to be no provisions for appropriately labeling and lawfully transporting samples. These transfers would not be identified in the Inventory Tracking System.

Please do not put your CCB license, ID card, patient registration, or caregiver registration at risk by participating in unapproved competitions. CCB approvals are given in writing, on Board letterhead, and should be readily available from an approved organizer, together with an approved contest plan. Approved competitions will never involve unlicensed cultivators, receipt of untracked cannabis, or transportation or possession of cannabis by unlicensed persons.

To verify an approval, or if you have questions about this memorandum, please contact ccb.compliance@vermont.gov.