



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
Department of Safety
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Fire Prevention and Investigation Division

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GUIDELINE FOR NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES & PLANT HUSBANDRY IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The intent of this guideline is to aid in the *Change of Use/Occupancy* permitting process for new medical marijuana dispensaries and plant husbandry, including growing operations, within commercial buildings or tenant spaces by identifying submittal requirements for Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) review. This guideline is not intended to identify every applicable code requirement. The applicant must follow all appropriate Codes as adopted and amended by the City and County of Denver for the proposed operation or construction.

The FPB reviews construction permit applications for compliance with the 2008 Denver Fire Code (DFC). These reviews are performed concurrently with Denver Development Services (DS) reviews for 2008 Denver Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, etc., Code compliance. Submittals for *Change of Use/Occupancy* are submitted to the Denver Development Services log-in counter at 201 W Colfax 2nd floor.

After a City and County of Denver Zoning [Land] Use Permit and possibly a Business License from Excise and License have been obtained, the following information specific to medical marijuana dispensaries and plant husbandry (including grow facilities) shall be submitted in addition to documents identified in Denver Building Permit **Policy IBC 3406B** *Change of occupancy and/or change in use, procedures for obtaining a new certificate of occupancy* (see www.denvergov.org/BuildingCodePolicies):

- 1) Identify all proposed blocked windows and doors. Specify/detail how blocking will be accomplished.
- 2) Construction permits are required for new and modified partitions, floors and ceilings. Plastic or Mylar used to enclose rooms or cover walls, floors or ceilings must be installed in accordance with Building Code & Fire Code requirements for partitions and interior finishes (note that hanging plastic from ceilings or overhead structures is not in compliance). Manufacturer cut sheets documenting flame spread ratings or compliance with the acceptance criteria specified for NFPA 286 shall be submitted for all proposed plastic. Installation details are required. For plant husbandry/growing operations, if plastic is not proposed, provide a letter signed by the owner and stamped & signed by the design professional of record (if involved) stating such.
- 3) If CO₂ generation is proposed, include in a letter or denote on construction drawings the generation mechanism; e.g., burners, compressed CO₂, etc. (note the use of propane for CO₂ generation is prohibited in the DFC). Provide applicable manufacturer equipment data sheets for CO₂ generators, regulators, CO/CO₂ detection equipment, etc. If CO₂ generation is not used, provide signed letter stating such.
- 4) The electrical loads and wiring for grow lighting, fans, etc will need to be reviewed and permitted. The use of extension cords or power strips as permanent wiring to equipment, lighting, fans, etc. is prohibited in the DFC. Also note all electrical wiring including wiring from ballasts to grow lamps, is required to be supported in accordance with the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC). An electrical submittal is required to demonstrate compliance.
- 5) The type of proposed locking hardware on all doors to/from occupiable spaces within the occupancy, as well as for each access/exit door to the occupancy shall be submitted for review. See Denver Building Permit **Policy IBC1008.1.8** for further information of locking of doors in commercial buildings. If electronic locking is proposed, a #3B/Access Control permit is required (see DBC Appendix L).
- 6) Submit a Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) listing every material having a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). If quantities are less than the limits specified in DFC Section 105, submit a letter stating, "the quantities of materials regulated by the DFC will not exceed the permitted amounts". See www.denvergov.org/cpd ("Building Codes" then "2008 Denver Amendments") for referenced DFC Sections.