

Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Regime

Under the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act 2019 (the “Act”), a licence must be granted to conduct any business pertaining to the Medicinal Cannabis industry in Barbados. The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (the “BMCLA”) is the authorized regulator of the Medicinal cannabis licensing regime.

Approved and regulated activities and licences

Licences that may be granted under the Act are as follows: (a) Cultivator Licence, (b) Processor Licence (c) Retail Distributor Licence (d) Laboratory Licence (e) Research and Development Licence (f) Import Licence (g) Export Licence (h) Transport Licence. An applicant can apply for more than one licence, and some licences may be acquired together due to the nature of a licence being pursued. An applicant can hold all of the licences simultaneously and some licences are complementary due to the nature of the licence being pursued. All licences are valid for five (5) years.

Cultivator and processor licences are differentiated by tiers. The Cultivator Licence has four (4) tiers and the Processor Licence has three (3) tiers, which are as follows:

CULTIVATOR LICENCE TIERS

Tier 1	up to 1 acre
Tier 2	over 1 acre to 5 acres
Tier 3	over 5 acres to 25 acres
Tier 4	more than 25 acres

PROCESSOR LICENCE TIERS

Tier 1	up to 200 square metres
Tier 2	200- 500 square metres
Tier 3	more than 500 square metres

Eligible licences holders

An applicant must be 18 years of age in order to hold a licence issued by the BMCLA. Further, eligible licensees must be either (a) citizens of Barbados, (b) permanent resident of Barbados, (c) an active holder of immigrant status in Barbados, (d) a citizen of a CARICOM Member State or (e) a Company/ Partnership/ Co-operative Society.

Ownership requirements

In the instance where the applicant is a Company, Partnership, Co-operative Society, thirty (30) per cent of that applicant’s ownership must be owned by a citizen, permanent resident, person with immigrant status or a citizen of a CARICOM Member State.

General required documents for application process.

1. Police certificate of Character or the equivalent thereof for the applicant, directors, employees, partners and authorized agents (s), issued no more than 1 month prior to the submission of the said certificate (where applicable). A Certificate must be obtained from any country where that person was resident or domiciled in 5 years prior to coming to Barbados.
2. Certified copy of two forms of photo identification issued by a government institution.
3. Certified copy of Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Incorporation. (Inclusive of all incorporation documents).
4. Operational procedures plan (business plan) outlining proposed cannabis business inclusive of a disaster plan, the source of the funds and such other information as may be required by the BMCLA.
5. Premises plan where required and in accordance with the requirements issued by the BMCLA.
6. Security Plan and Disposal Plan completed in accordance with the requirements issued by the BMCLA.
7. Doctor's Certificate in accordance with Section 32 (2) of the Act.
8. Proof of Address, issued within three (3) months to the date of filing the application.
9. Form 10 consent by Property Owner to utilize Premises for medicinal cannabis, (where required).
10. Town and Country Planning Permission (where applicable).
11. Any Accreditation issued to a Laboratory (where applicable); and
12. Any other documents as may be requested by the BMCLA. Where additional documents are requested, those documents must be provided to the BMCLA within 10 days of the request.

Application and licensing fees:

All licences are valid for 5 years, the fees stated below are one-off payments which cover the 5 year period. The licensing fee is paid upon the approval of the application. All fees stated are in USD:

Application fees:

LICENCE	FEE
Cultivator Licence	\$990.00
Processor Licence	\$2,970.00
Retail Distributor Licence	\$2,970.00
Transport Licence	\$990.00
Export Licence	\$990.00
Import Licence	\$990.00
Laboratory Licence	\$4,950.00
Research and Development Licence	\$2,970.00

Licence fees:

CULTIVATOR LICENCE	FEE
Tier 1 - Per acre	\$14,850.00
Tier 2 - Per acre	\$61,875.00
Tier 3 - Per acre	\$49,500.00
Tier 4 - Per acre	\$39,600.00

PROCESSOR LICENCE	FEE
Tier 1	\$74,250.00
Tier 2	\$371,250.00
Tier 3	\$495,000.00

LICENCE	FEE
Retail Distributor Licence	\$74,250.00
Transport Licence	\$49,500.00
Cost for each additional vehicle	\$7,425.00
Export Licence	\$2,970.00
Import Licence	\$2,970.00
Laboratory Licence	\$37,125.00
Research and Development Licence	\$37,125.00

The information provided within this client insight is not an exhaustive summary of the Act or supplementary regulations pertaining to the Medicinal Cannabis licensing regime in Barbados. For further information on additional specifics regarding this regime, please do not hesitate to contact the following members of our firm.

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