Title 2—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division 70—Plant Industries
Chapter 17—Industrial Hemp

EMERGENCY AMENDMENT

2 CSR 70-17.030 State and Federal Fingerprint Criminal History Background Check [(When Required, Process, and Fees)] Requirements. The department is amending the title, the purpose, and the entire rule.

PURPOSE: This amendment updates requirements for the State and Federal Fingerprint Criminal History Background check.

PURPOSE: This rule explains the state and federal fingerprint criminal history background check requirements.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: This emergency amendment informs the public of what provisions are necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the Industrial Hemp Program. The department believes this emergency amendment is necessary to serve a compelling governmental interest in order to implement the regulatory framework for industrial hemp production in Missouri. Emergency rules are necessary to issue registrations and permits in preparation for the 2020 growing season. The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) shall promulgate rules for the registration and permitting of persons for the production of industrial hemp. MDA must maintain a list of registered producers and agricultural hemp propagule and seed permit holders that produce, sell, distribute, or offer for sale viable industrial hemp. MDA must provide the list of registered producers and permit holders to the Missouri State Highway Patrol for verification of legal production of industrial hemp. MDA rulemaking authority also allows for the inspection and sampling of any hemp crop to determine if a crop contains a legally allowable tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration in accordance with the federal Controlled Substances Act under 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et. seq. MDA must also promulgate rules for: application requirements for registration and permitting; industrial hemp plant monitoring systems; testing requirements to ensure that the hemp does not exceed the legal limit of delta-9 THC; and registration and permit revocation, refusal protocols, and civil penalties for violations of these provisions. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a minimum of five hundred (500) persons will be registered to produce industrial hemp as a result of meeting the requirements for a registration or permit. No person may legally possess viable industrial hemp under the authorizing statute without first obtaining a producer registration or agricultural hemp propagule and seed permit in Missouri. As a result, MDA finds a compelling governmental interest which requires this emergency rulemaking. The scope of this emergency amendment is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the Missouri and United States Constitutions. MDA believes this emergency amendment is fair to all interested parties under the circumstances. A proposed amendment covering this same material was published in the November 1, 2019, issue of the Missouri Register (44 MoReg 2671-2672). An emergency amendment covering this same material will be published in the February 3, 2020, issue of the Missouri Register.

PUBLIC COST: This emergency amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars ($500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This emergency amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars ($500) in the aggregate.

check within thirty (30) days of submitting an application for a producer registration and renewal of a producer registration.

(2) Each applicant must complete and pay for a state and federal fingerprint criminal background check within thirty (30) days of submitting an application or renewal to become a certified industrial hemp sampler.

(3) All required state and federal fingerprint criminal background checks shall be [delivered] provided to the department [with the application for registration] through the Missouri State Highway Patrol automated system.

(4) Failure to submit all required state and federal fingerprint criminal background checks [with the application or the request to renew the registration] shall be grounds for denial [of registration].


(1) Each applicant and all key participants must complete and pay for a state and federal fingerprint criminal background check within thirty (30) days of submitting an application for a producer registration and renewal of a producer registration.