In California, all commercial cannabis businesses must be licensed by the state. Three governing bodies—known as the state’s cannabis licensing authorities—oversee the licensing and regulation of the cannabis industry. The licensing authority that regulates cannabis farmers is the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Division. To operate any commercial cannabis business in California, the business must be in a local jurisdiction that permits the type of cannabis activity you wish to engage in (for example, you can’t get a state license to grow commercial cannabis if your proposed business would be in a city or county that bans commercial cannabis grow sites). For an overview of the state’s cannabis regulations and guidelines for cultivators, nurseries, and processors, please visit the CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing website at CalCannabis.cdfa.ca.gov. For information about other licensed cannabis activities in the state, including retail, distribution, testing labs, and manufacturing, visit the California Cannabis Portal at cannabis.ca.gov.

CALCANNABIS CULTIVATION LICENSING DIVISION

Housed within the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the CalCannabis division licenses cannabis cultivators, nurseries, and processors, and manages the California Cannabis Track-and-Trace system, which tracks all commercial cannabis and cannabis products.

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