



CANNABIS REGULATION  
**FACT SHEET**

## I. Introduction

This fact sheet surveys cannabis product labeling laws in states that have legalized adult-use cannabis. Product labeling is a critical public health tool for consumer education and safety. Product labels help consumers make informed decisions and help prevent accidental ingestion. Cannabis product labels contain a broad spectrum of information. This fact sheet focuses on 11 state policy variables used to regulate cannabis product labels in adult-use states. The variables are broken into three categories: General Label Requirement, Health Warnings, and Universal Symbol Requirements. Section II of this fact sheet provides a research summary that discusses the prevalence of each policy variable and the variation in policy within each. Section III contains a table that covers the policy approach of each state and allows side-by-side comparison.


## II. Research Summary:

### a. State Law

This section examines 11 state policy variables used to regulate cannabis product labels in states that allow adult-use cannabis. The variables are broken into 3 categories: General Label Requirement, Health Warnings, and Universal Symbol Requirements. The prevalence of each variable is explained, and a range of policy approaches is provided when necessary.

#### **General Label Requirement**

**Font Requirement for Label:** Ten jurisdictions have general text size and/or style requirements that apply to all required labeling on cannabis products. Text size requirements are described either as a font point-size or in inches. Most jurisdictions with text size



requirements (6 out of 10) describe them in inches, ranging from 1/10 inch to 1/16 inch, some specifying whether that measurement is based on lowercase letter “o” or uppercase letter “K.” Three jurisdictions describe text size requirements in font point-size, ranging from 4.5-point in New York to 8-point in Nevada. Maine describes text size with both font point-size (6-point) and inches (1/12). Two jurisdictions have font style requirements (i.e., Connecticut requires labels to be printed in Times New Roman).

### **Health Warnings**


**Font Requirements for Warnings:** Five jurisdictions have font size and/or style requirements that specifically apply to warning labels on cannabis products. Two states have the same or similar requirements for the label as a whole, as they do for warning labels (California and Maine). The remaining three states have font size and/or style requirements for warning labels only. New Jersey requires 6-point font, Illinois requires text to be of legible size, and New Mexico requires text to be in bold.

**Required Location for Warnings:** Only one jurisdiction, New Mexico, has a specific requirement for the location for required warnings on cannabis product labels. New Mexico requires warnings to be located on the principal display panel. The principal display panel on a product is the part of the label most likely to be displayed or examined under customary conditions of retail sale. Three jurisdictions, California, Illinois, and Maine, have general location requirements for warnings, including that they must be “visible,” “clear,” and “unobstructed and ambiguous.”

**Delayed Onset for Edibles:** Most jurisdictions (13) require labels on edible products to include a warning regarding the delayed onset of intoxication and other effects from consuming edible cannabis products. Warnings typically use two hours as a threshold, for example: “intoxicating effects may be delayed by 2+ hours” (Washington), “cannabis edibles can take up to 2 hours or more to take effect” (Oregon).

**Driving/Operating Machinery:** All but five jurisdictions require labels on cannabis products to include a warning about the dangers of driving or operating a vehicle while using the product. Most jurisdictions specify warning language such as “it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of cannabis” (Illinois), or “marijuana use...can impair an individual’s ability to drive a motor vehicle or operate heavy machinery” (Arizona). Of the remaining five jurisdictions, four do not yet have robust regulations for the legal cannabis market (D.C., New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia). Nevada is the only state without a required warning about driving or operating motor vehicles.

**Pregnant/Breastfeeding:** Fifteen jurisdictions require labels on cannabis products to include a warning about the dangers of using the product while pregnant or breastfeeding. Most jurisdictions have similar language, such as “do not use if pregnant or breastfeeding” (Vermont) or “marijuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding” (Alaska). Some include more detailed warning language such as “use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, preterm birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child” (Michigan). Michigan only requires the warning to be present on the product on a quarterly rotation with other health-related warnings but does require that the warning be on an extended content label, package insert, or accessible via QR code at all times.



**Children and Animals:** Three jurisdictions require labels on cannabis products to include a warning to keep away from children and animals, with basic language such as “keep this product away from children and pets” (Vermont). Thirteen more jurisdictions require labels only with warnings to keep away from children, again with basic language such as “keep out of reach of children.” Colorado has an exception to this requirement for cannabis vaporizing products, and Washington requires the warning to be located on the principal display panel of the product.

**Not Safe for Kids Icon:** Three jurisdictions require labels on cannabis products to include a “Not Safe for Kids Icon” generally resembling a red octagon containing “NOT SAFE FOR KIDS” in black text, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Washington. Again, Washington requires this warning to be located on the principal display panel of the product. While Connecticut does not require this icon, it does require an icon indicating that the product is only safe and legal for adults 21 and up (a circle containing “21+”).

### **Universal Symbol Requirements**

**Universal Symbol Required:** Twelve jurisdictions require labels on cannabis products to include a universal symbol indicating that the product contains THC. While each jurisdiction allows their regulatory agency to determine the appearance of the symbol, most resemble a triangle containing a cannabis leaf, with “THC” incorporated near the triangle. While Nevada is not one of the 12 jurisdictions with a universal symbol requirement, it does require products to be labeled with “THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABIS” or “THIS IS A MARIJUANA PRODUCT” in bold type.

**Required Size of Symbol:** Of the 12 jurisdictions that require a universal symbol on cannabis product labels, nine have minimum size requirements. Size requirements range from a minimum of one-fourth of an inch width and height to three-quarters of an inch width and height. The most common size requirement is a minimum of one-half inch width and height (four jurisdictions). California and Vermont have different size requirements based on the type of product.

**Required Location:** Of the 12 jurisdictions that require a universal symbol on cannabis product labels, four dictate that the symbol must be located on the principal display panel, the front of the product, or predominantly displayed. California simply requires the symbol to be “visible,” and the remaining seven jurisdictions do not have location requirements.

### **III. Research Tables**

N/A stands for “not applicable.” N/A is used when the variable is not applicable because the jurisdiction does not have a licensed adult-use market (D.C. and VA). NC stands for “not covered.” NC is used when the jurisdiction has not yet adopted regulations for the adult-use market (NY).

State	Citation	General Font Requirement for Label	Health Warnings							Universal Symbol			
			Font Requirements for Warning	Required Location	Delayed onset for edibles	Driving / operating machinery	Pregnant/ Breast-feeding	Children and Animals	Not Safe for Kids Icon	Universal Symbol	Required Size of Symbol	Required Location	
AK	<a href="#">3 AAC 306.345</a> ; <a href="#">3 AAC 306.475</a> ; <a href="#">3 AAC 306.570</a>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, children	No	No	No	No
AZ	<a href="#">AZ ST § 36-2854.01</a> ; <a href="#">AZ ADC R9-18-310</a>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (by end of 2023)	Yes, children	No	No	No	No	No
CA	<a href="#">CA BUS &amp; PROF § 26120</a> ; <a href="#">CA BUS &amp; PROF § 26122</a> ; <a href="#">4 CA ADC § 17403</a> ; <a href="#">4 CA ADC § 17406</a> ; <a href="#">4 CA ADC § 17410</a>	6-point font	6-point font <sup>1</sup>	Clear and legible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1/4 inch high and 1/4 inch wide (cartridges and vaporizers); 1/2 inch high (edibles)	No <sup>2</sup>	
CO	<a href="#">CO ST § 44-10-203</a> ; <a href="#">1 CO ADC 212-3:3-1005</a> ; <a href="#">1 CO ADC 212-3:3-1010</a> ; <a href="#">CO ADC 212-3:3-1015</a>	1/16 inch; unobstructed and conspicuous	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, children <sup>3</sup>	No	Yes	1/2 inch by 1/2 inch	No	
CT	<a href="#">CT ST § 21a-421j-33</a>	Black Times New Roman on contrasting background; 1/10 inch	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes, children	No <sup>5</sup>	Yes	1/2 inch by 1/2 inch	No	

State	Citation	General Font Requirement for Label	Health Warnings							Universal Symbol		
			Font Requirements for Warning	Required Location	Delayed onset for edibles	Driving / operating machinery	Pregnant/ Breast-feeding	Children and Animals	Not Safe for Kids Icon	Universal Symbol	Required Size of Symbol	Required Location
		based on capital "K"										
DC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IL	<a href="#">IL ST CH 410 § 705/55-21</a> ; <a href="#">8 IL ADC 1300.940</a>	No	Legible size	Readily visible, not obstructed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
ME	<a href="#">ME ADC 18-691 Ch. 1, § 9</a>	6-point font or 1/12 inch	6-point font	Clearly written or printed; unobstructed and conspicuous	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, children (edibles only)	No	Yes	1/2 inch by 1/2 inch	Front or most predominantly displayed area of the package's marketing layer
MA	<a href="#">MA ST 94G § 4</a> ; <a href="#">935 MA ADC 500.105</a> ; <a href="#">935 MA ADC 500.150</a>	1/16 inch	No <sup>6</sup>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, children	Yes	Yes	No	No
MI	<a href="#">MI ST 333.27958</a> ; <a href="#">MI ADC R 420.504</a>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes <sup>7</sup>	Yes, children	No	Yes	No	No
MT	<a href="#">MT ST 16-12-215</a> ; <a href="#">MT ADC 42.39.314</a> ; <a href="#">MT ADC 42.39.316</a> ; <a href="#">MT ADC 42.39.318</a>	Legible font; <sup>8</sup> 1/16 inch based on lowercase "o" <sup>9</sup>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1/3 inch high, 1/3 inch wide	No
NV	<a href="#">NV ST 678B.520</a> ; <a href="#">NV ADC 453D.800 through NV ADC</a>	8-point font; no italics <sup>10</sup>	No	No	Yes	No	Yes <sup>11</sup>	Yes, children	No	No <sup>12</sup>	No	No

State	Citation	General Font Requirement for Label	Health Warnings							Universal Symbol		
			Font Requirements for Warning	Required Location	Delayed onset for edibles	Driving / operating machinery	Pregnant/ Breast-feeding	Children and Animals	Not Safe for Kids Icon	Universal Symbol	Required Size of Symbol	Required Location
	<a href="#">453D.832, inclusive</a>											
NJ	<a href="#">NJ ST 24:6I-35; NJ ADC 17:30-13.3; NJ ADC 17:30-13.6</a>	No	6-point font	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, children	No	Yes	No	No
NM	<a href="#">NM ST § 26-2C-17; NM ADC 16.8.3.9; NM ADC 16.8.3.10</a>	1/16 inch based on lowercase "o;" unobstructed and conspicuous	Bold font	Principal display panel	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>13</sup>	Yes, children	No	Yes	At least 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch	Principal display panel
NY	<a href="#">9 NY ADC 114.9</a>	4.5-point font	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes, children	No	No	No	No
OR	<a href="#">OR ST § 475C.604; OR ADC 845-025-7030 through OR ADC 845-025-7145, inclusive</a>	1/16 inch based on capital "K;" typed; legible font; unobstructed and conspicuous	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, children	No	Yes	0.48 inches wide by 0.35 inches high	Principal display panel
RI	N/A	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
VT	<a href="#">VT ADC 26-1-2:2</a>	No	No <sup>14</sup>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/2 inch by 1/2 inch; for edibles, 25% of product size but no less than	No

State	Citation	General Font Requirement for Label	Health Warnings							Universal Symbol		
			Font Requirements for Warning	Required Location	Delayed onset for edibles	Driving / operating machinery	Pregnant/ Breast-feeding	Children and Animals	Not Safe for Kids Icon	Universal Symbol	Required Size of Symbol	Required Location
											1/4 inch by 1/4 inch	
VA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WA	<a href="#">WA ADC 314-55-105</a> ; <a href="#">WA ADC 314-55-106</a>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes <sup>15</sup>	Yes	3/4 inch by 3/4 inch; legible, readily visible	Principal display panel or front of the package

**This document was developed by Brienne Schell, JD, MA. The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, please consult specific legal counsel.**

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<sup>1</sup> Edible cannabis products must include “cannabis infused” or “cannabis-infused” above the product identity on the primary label in bold type and a font size larger than size 6. 4 CA ADC § 17405.

<sup>2</sup> The universal symbol must be “visible” on cartridges and vaporizers.

<sup>3</sup> Except for vaporizers and the like.

<sup>4</sup> Only required on main product label on quarterly rotation with three other warnings; always required on extended label, package insert, or accessible via QR code.

<sup>5</sup> Does require an icon indicating that the product is only safe and legal for individuals over 21.

<sup>6</sup> Text must be “legible.”

<sup>7</sup> Must be legible and surrounded by a continuous heavy line.


<sup>8</sup> Law gives examples of legible fonts: Times New Roman, Arial, and Helvetica.

<sup>9</sup> Unless the product is small and does not have sufficient space.

<sup>10</sup> Text on accompanying materials and warnings must be at least size 12 font.

<sup>11</sup> Only needs to be included in accompanying warnings, not on the label.

<sup>12</sup> Must be labeled clearly and unambiguously with “THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABIS” or “THIS IS A MARIJUANA PRODUCT” in bold type.



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<sup>13</sup> Not required on principal display panel, only on information panel or accessed through QR code.

<sup>14</sup> There is a minimum font size of size 10 Times New Roman for the following warning: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

<sup>15</sup> Must be placed on the principal display panel.