
Division of Cannabis Regulation

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/524-2143 • Voice/TDD 866/287-2999

CRAFT GROWER OPERATIONAL EXTENSION

This notice from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (“Department” or “IDOA”) provides reminders and general information for Craft Growers with a Renewal Date of August 1, 2026 (Group 1) licensed under the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (“CRTA”), with a focus on operational deadlines.

OPERATIONAL DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR CRAFT GROWERS

Craft Grower Group 1 Licensees were awarded licenses with effective dates ranging from August 1, 2021-July 31, 2022. The current operational deadline for Craft Grower Group 1 is February 1, 2026. The Department hereby extends this operational deadline to July 31, 2026, to restore alignment with the Craft Grower Group 1 License Renewal deadline.

In accordance with 8 IAC 1300.310 (E): “A license shall be surrendered to the Department upon written notice and demand if the Craft Grower fails to begin production within 6 months after the license has been issued. The Craft Grower may submit a written request to the Department for an extension of time setting forth its justification for being unable to begin production within 6 months after the license was issued. The Department may grant an extension, at its discretion, for good cause shown. Good cause may include unforeseen events, acts of nature and other events that prevent a good faith effort. Good cause shall not include cost overruns, insufficient financing and other factors evidencing a lack of good faith effort.”

As previously announced, due to a number of factors, **the operational deadline for Craft Growers awarded an initial license with effective dates August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022, was extended to February 1, 2026, and will now be extended to July 31, 2026.**

A Group 1 Craft Grower that has not been issued an operational permit or will not be issued an operational permit by July 31, 2026, must submit a Craft Grower Operational Extension Application Form to the Department no later than June 30, 2026. Completed Craft Grower Operational Extension Applications must be submitted to the Department at AGR.CannabisMod@illinois.gov.