



## *Blog Articles: Spire Secure Logistics for Medical Marijuana*



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### *Cannabis security and what you need to know.*

As the medical cannabis industry continues to grow with rapid success, medical marijuana security for licensed ACMPR facilities is more important than ever. This is a business that has a higher security risk associated, because of the nature of the product – high street value, organized crime cannabis and increasing competition can leave facilities vulnerable in ways you may not have considered. There's also the ever-changing regulations and compliance requirements from Health Canada.

Developing the best security platform in both a physical and technological capacity is a high priority for any licensed producer. If there's one thing we can tell you from our 15 years of experience in the industry, it's that thinking ahead is worth its weight in gold. Not only will a well-structured security plan protect your company financially, but ensure full compliance with Health Canada and the law.

The ACMPR highlights 11 security levels for the storage of controlled substances in Division 3 of their regulations. All licensed producers are required to comply with at least level 7 security. To reach level 7, your facility needs to have significant security measures implemented. Detectors for unauthorized access attempts, interior layout logistics, electrical code compliance, alarm equipment monitored by an U.L.C. approved central monitoring station, functioning cameras 24/7 and other L.C.C. You also need to make sure you're following all the rules relating to data privacy. Our well-practiced services are designed to provide LP-specific solutions than cater to an ever-shifting industry with high risk concerns, and create individualized security practices that protect you on every front, from preventing robbery, theft, and extortion to maintaining mission critical technology.



### *Obtaining your Cannabis insurance and your Certificate of Liability*

If you're just starting out and taking your first look at the licensed producer application process, there are a few things you need to keep in mind. Whether you're a potential investor in an ACMPR applicant or intend to apply yourself, the process can be challenging to say the least. Since 2016 over 50% of the applications have been rejected, and more than 800 applications have been returned because they were incomplete.

There are a lot of hoops to jump through in order to become a licensed producer of medical marijuana. For starters, you'll need to fill out the 14-page application form from Health Canada. Then you'll need to provide your ACMPR business plan. RCMP clearances, security clearances, locations surveys, floor plans and specifications are just the tip of the iceberg. These processes keep the industry safe and well regulated for everyone, so it's important to fully comply.

Another important and necessary step on your journey to medical marijuana production is getting the right insurance. Medical marijuana insurance coverage protects you from the unique risks your business faces. Coverage for items such as your Premises Liability, Products Liability, Building and Equipment all need to be carefully considered before you can open your business doors.

For commercial space used to legally cultivate and package marijuana it can also be a good idea to look into coverage for extra expenses that can arise, such as repairs, relocation during repair work, even water damage. There are a lot of areas to consider. So let us help. Get in touch with an agent to assess risk exposure and develop special risk insurance products for your business.



### *Medical marijuana consultation - Does your business need cannabis consulting?*

If you want to make headway in the continually expanding medical marijuana industry, it is vital to know exactly what you're doing. But if you're only just starting, where does that experience and expertise come from? Inexperience and an amateur hand can prove costly. Whether it's your business or you have an invested stake in someone else, knowledge in the field is crucial if you want to succeed.

The decisions you make in all aspects of your medical marijuana business need acute attention to detail. For example, your choice of appropriate site for your facility and its operational design are critical in meeting security standards and requirements. Do you know how?

If not, it could be time to call in someone who does. Cannabis consulting and specified medical marijuana production consultation is what makes the difference between a thriving business in this industry, and not even getting through the gate. Our previous article on becoming a licensed producer shows just how tricky even the first steps can be.

With a specified consultation for cannabis production tailored to your business, it becomes that much easier to keep informed about current and upcoming changes to regulatory requirements. Recommendations can be made at all phases of the licensing process, and we can help oversee any modifications necessary for you to comply with ACMPR guidelines.

Any business at any size, at any point in its growth can be affected with updates to Health Canada legislation. Decisions on security protocols, insurance coverage, risk assessment, even technological systems must be made with sound guidance. That's where we come in. Have a question about cannabis consulting? Get started on the right path and call us today.



### *What are the risks? - ACMPR compliance, ALR, the cannabis act and your business.*

As of July 1st 2018, Marijuana will be legal in Canada. Each province will need to make important decisions on distribution before then. Some areas are already being affected by the differences in provincial regulations and federal law, and that could seriously alter things for your business.

Some cities in B.C. such as Delta are holding public hearings on a sweeping bylaw change, which could prohibit cannabis dispensaries. While other cities such as Vancouver, Nelson and Victoria have their own police force, Delta is policed by the RCMP, which enforces federal laws. So if your medical marijuana business is located in a place that faces the same issues, what does that mean for you and your company?

To get around the ban, Delta is looking to a current rule that allows the growing of cannabis on farms governed by the Agricultural Land Reserve, over which the city doesn't have much jurisdiction. At the current time the ALR allows federally licensed medical cannabis growth as an agricultural crop. But for how long?

This is just one example of the way medical marijuana production can be affected by changes in the law. ACMPR compliance is critical for any licensed producer in maintaining your cannabis business, but when the goal posts keep changing it can be more than challenging. The risk of losing your company because of failure to keep up with the changing times is ever present, so why chance it?



### *Your Logistics strategy – Why secure transportation, storage needs and compliance can't*

There are many complications that can prevent the free flow of product and assets in any business. The nature of the medical marijuana industry means that not only are there logistical problems to work through, but also legal, security, and environmental ones to consider. The legal inconsistencies between federal, provincial and local laws put you in a confusing and compromising situation. There's also the danger of criminal targeting during transportation, as your product is at its most vulnerable at this point in the supply chain.

And it's not just cannabis you need to think about. Limited access to banking and the nature of cash sales within this particular industry creates a need to move large amounts of cash safely. The logistics of such transactions and transfers make the correct risk assessment and security evaluations vital. As a result of the illegal drug trade and organized crime, local law enforcement divisions have seen increased violence and theft. Will you allow your business to be targeted?

When it comes to business logistics strategies, we've got everything covered. From international trans-shipment and bonded warehousing to temperature and humidity controlled storage. Spire is at the forefront of cannabis transportation, cannabis logistics and loss prevention with the right security measures and risk assessment. So don't wait for trouble to find you, go to the trouble of finding the best solutions for your business.