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# REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**DECISION**

# No. 50, date 22.01.2025

# FOR

**APPROVING STANDARDS FOR AREAS AND LAND PARCELS WHERE THE CULTIVATION OF *CANNABIS* PLANT FOR MEDICAL AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES WILL BE ALLOWED**

Based on Article 100 of the Constitution, letter "c", paragraph 2, of Article 9, of Law No. 61/2023 "For the control of the cultivation and processing of *cannabis* plants and the production of their by-products for medical and industrial purposes", upon the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Council of Ministers

# D E C I D E D:

1. In this decision, the following terms have these meanings:
   1. **"Standards":** the entirety of requirements and criteria that areas and land parcels must meet for the cultivation of *cannabis* for medical and industrial purposes;
   2. **"Land parcel":** a defined area of land acquired through an act of property acquisition, which will be used for the cultivation of *cannabis* for medical or industrial purposes, in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 61/2023, "For the control of the cultivation and processing of *cannabis* plants and the production of their by-products for medical and industrial purposes";
   3. **"Protected environment":** a covered and controlled cultivation environment, that creates favorable conditions for plant growth, protecting them from external weather influences such as extreme temperature changes, wind, or rainfall. This environment allows sunlight penetration and typically includes structures like greenhouses or plastic tunnels that provide a certain degree of control over temperature, humidity, and light, in accordance with the Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) guidelines of the European Medicines Agency;

**ç) "Closed environment":** a fully enclosed, covered, and isolated cultivation environment, which provides favorable conditions for plant growth without natural sunlight penetration. This type of environment uses artificial lighting and cultivation systems for parameters such as light, humidity, temperature, ventilation, and external factors, ensuring optimal conditions for cultivation, in line with the GACP guidelines of the European Medicines Agency;

* 1. **"Zone":** the entirety of land parcels where *cannabis* is cultivated for medical or industrial purposes;

dh) **"Cultivation field or Cultivation substrate":** a material or mixture of materials, either natural or manufactured, that provides physical support and nutrient supply for plant growth, which can include natural soil, peat, perlite, vermiculite, coconut fiber, or other substrates that create suitable conditions for plant growth in a cultivation environment, allowing regulation of moisture, aeration, and nutrients.

1. Standards for areas and land parcels for the cultivation of the cannabis plant for medical purposes are:
2. land parcels, part of the production unit, that cannot extend within the borders of:
   1. protected zones and priority tourist development areas declared as such by the Council of Ministers;
   2. forests, pastures, and meadows;
   3. military zones;
   4. areas designated as urban systems in local territorial planning documents.
3. land parcels, part of the production unit, must be at least 3 (three) kilometers away, by air, from approved beekeeping parks as per the legislation on beekeeping;
4. land parcels, part of the production unit, must be at least 3 kilometers away, by air, from military zones and properties under the administration of the Ministry of Defense;

ç) the concentration of heavy metals in soil or cultivation substrates where *cannabis* is cultivated for medical purposes must not exceed the maximum values set out in Appendix 1, attached to this decision, which is an integral part of it;

d) the soil or cultivation substrates where medicinal *cannabis* is cultivated must meet the standards outlined in the Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) guidelines of the European Medicines Agency and the World Health Organization, as well as standards set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

1. Standards for areas and land parcels for the cultivation of the cannabis plant for industrial purposes are:
2. land parcels, part of the production unit, cannot extend within the boundaries of:
   1. protected zones and priority tourist development areas declared as such by the Council of Ministers;
   2. forests, pastures, and meadows;
   3. military zones;
   4. areas designated as urban systems in local territorial planning documents.
      1. land parcels, part of the production unit, must be at least 3 (three) kilometers away, by air, from approved beekeeping parks as per the legislation on beekeeping;
      2. land parcels, part of the production unit, must be at least 3 kilometers away, by air, from military zones and properties under the administration of the Ministry of Defense;
3. In cases where construction interventions are planned on the land parcel, part of the production unit, construction shall be carried out according to the provisions of the territorial planning and development legislation.
4. In cases where the land parcel is used for the cultivation of cannabis for medical or industrial purposes, it must be equipped with an act of property acquisition, in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Code and Law No. 111/2018 "On the Cadaster."
5. The standards set in points 2, letter "a", subdivision "iv", and "b", and 3, letter "a", subdivision "iv", and "b", of this decision do not apply when cultivation is carried out in closed environments.
6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the National Agency for Cannabis Control and licensed entities and with permit are responsible for the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters into force after publication in the Official Gazette.

# PRIME MINISTER EDI RAMA

**In absence and by order**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

**BELINDA BALLUKU**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ANILA DENAJ

**APPENDIX 1**

**Maximum values for the concentration of elements in cultivation soils or substrates**

(in mg/kg dry matter, in a representative soil sample)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Metal and chemical symbol** | **Maximum values**  **(in mg/kg)** |
| Antimony ( Sb ) | 2 |
| Arsenic ( As) | 5 |
| Mercury ( Hg ) | 0.5 |
| Cadmium (CD) | 1 |
| Cobalt (What) | 20 |
| Chrome (Cr) | 100 |
| Copper ( Cu ) | 100 |
| Iron (Pb) | 60 |
| Nickel (We) | 50 |
| Zinc (Mr.) | 200 |
| Vanadium (V) | 100 |