



Import & Export Licence

Key Information

Overview

The Import & Export Licence allows the possession of controlled cannabinoids for the purpose of importing into or exporting out of the Isle of Man. It is essential for businesses involved in the international cannabis trade.

Important to note: A permit is required for each individual consignment. To conduct import or export activities, a company must hold the relevant licence and obtain a permit from both the GSC and the appropriate authority in the destination or origin country.

If you're unsure about the permit process, it's recommended to speak with the GSC at the time of licensing to clarify requirements and timelines.

Licence Scope

This licence is required for:

- Businesses importing material containing controlled cannabinoids to be brought to the Isle of Man
- Entities exporting cannabis derived products to international markets
- Organisations managing cross-border cannabis trade

Licensees may also hold additional licence types, such as:

- Cultivation Licence
 - Extraction or Manufacture Licence
 - Transport & Storage Licence
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Licence Types

Class 7 – Import Licence

Designed for businesses bringing cannabis materials into the Isle of Man for processing or resale.

Allows:

- Import of cannabis biomass, seedlings, plant parts, extracts, and finished products
- Temporary storage within the same licensed facility
- Possession of controlled cannabinoids for import purposes

Restrictions:

- Testing is conducted under the export licence and must possess ISO 17025 accreditation.
- Long-term storage requires a separate Transport & Storage Licence unless part of the import process
- Synthetic cannabinoids are not permitted
- Must comply with international cannabis regulations and Isle of Man standards

Class 8 – Export Licence

Designed for licensees wishing to export cannabis materials or products from the Isle of Man to international markets.

Allows:

- Export of cannabis biomass, extracts, and finished products
- Possession of controlled cannabinoids for export purposes
- Temporary storage within the same licensed facility
- Distribution to international markets

Restrictions:

- Products must meet labelling and testing standards of the destination country
- Testing is required if the customer base is non-commercial (e.g. individuals or patients)
- Long-term storage requires a separate Transport & Storage Licence unless part of the export process
- Synthetic cannabinoids are not permitted
- Licence holders must comply with international cannabis regulations. This includes demonstrating awareness of destination country laws and, where applicable, providing evidence of import/export permissions from the relevant foreign authority.

Dual Licencing

Licensees may hold multiple licence classes to support broader operational activities. For example, a business targeting markets outside the Isle of Man will require an Export Licence and may also hold a Cultivation Licence, alongside other relevant licences as appropriate.

When a Licence Isn't Required

No licence is required for:

- Possession, import, or export of cannabis seeds
- Postal, courier, airline, or shipping services transporting controlled cannabinoids to/from the Isle of Man, provided the recipient is licensed
- Operating transport vehicles (e.g. warehouse to docks)
- Providing import/export advice or administrative services without handling substances

Testing & Labelling Requirements for Export

Required for non-commercial customers:

- Heavy metals: ICP-MS
- Mycotoxins: HP-LC
- Chemical residues: GC-MS and LC-MS

Products must be:

- Properly labelled with cannabinoid content and origin
- Tested for potency, contaminants, and compliance with destination country standards

Facility Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Secure transportation and storage protocols
- Record-keeping systems for all movements
- Facility readiness for inspections
- Comply with international cannabis regulations during transit
- Logistics and supply chain management plans, including transit routes and trading partners

Note: Long-term storage of cannabis materials requires a Transport and Storage Licence, unless storage occurs within the same licensed facility used for import/export.

Application Requirements

Please refer to the overview of the [application process](#) to ensure all requirements are met.

Fees

<u>Licence Type</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2+</u>
Import Licence (Class 7)	£10,500	£7,875
Export Licence (Class 8)	£10,500	£7,875
Maximum Annual Cap	£62,500	

Licences operate on a rolling 12-month basis. The cap is automatically applied when each fee is paid.

Contact & Application

Please refer to the Full Guidance Document

If, after reviewing the guidance, you require further assistance, you may contact us by telephone or email. Contact details are provided in the footer of this page.