

The connection between MODA and the Hemp Regulations 2006

The key point to note is the clear definition of "industrial hemp" and hemp product".

Misuse of Drugs (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2006 (SR 2006/163)

S4 Interpretations. cannabis means Cannabis sativa hemp means cannabis plant, seed, or fruit hemp product means a product of a kind that is derived, in whole or in part, from industrial hemp industrial hemp means hemp in the form of— (a) plants with a THC content that is— (i) generally below 0.35%; and (ii) is not above 0.5%; or (b) seeds harvested from plants of that

The above is a nice closed loop for hemp products (seed and fibre) when made from industrial hemp are able to be cultivated and distributed from industrial hemp, as per the hemp regulations objective.

S3 Object

The object of these regulations is to enable the cultivation and distribution of industrial hemp under a licensing regime that ensures that other forms of cannabis are not cultivated and distributed under the guise of industrial hemp

As industrial hemp is grown under licence, issued by MOH then it is being controlled. And any other cannabis or hemp grown without a licence is illegal. No licencee wants to cheat the rules it is not in their business interest to do so.

S7 General Licence

(1) A general licence authorises the licence holder to undertake, in accordance with the licence and these regulations, any of the following activities that are specified in the licence:

- a) the procurement within New Zealand of industrial hemp:
- b) the cultivation of industrial hemp:
- c) the supply within New Zealand of industrial hemp:
- d) the processing of industrial hemp into specified hemp products:
- e) the possession of industrial hemp for the purposes of the activities specified in the licence.

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The licence is key; it allows us to cultivate a prohibited plant under section 9.1 of MODA Can this contract us out of MODA and allow industrial hemp licencee's to be governed by the industrial hemp regulations not MODA.

67 Permission

(1) Every person is permitted to possess, use, and trade in-

- (a) hemp products; and
- (b) stalks of industrial hemp as long as those stalks are without leaves or fruit.
- (2) This regulation does not affect any other restrictions imposed by law.

This section is potentially the problem for two reasons

- A) We need to be able to distribute the leaf, in the form of baleage and as a food *i.e. tea.*
- *B)* The roots are not mentioned, do we need to get roots specifically included, or are they OK as they are specifically not mentioned.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1975

2 Interpretation

Prohibited plant means— (a) any plant of the genus Cannabis:

9 Cultivation of prohibited plants

(1) Except pursuant to a licence under this Act, or as otherwise permitted by regulations made under this Act, no person shall cultivate any prohibited plant.

If we accept that the Government is always going to refer to MODA in the first instance there will always be political/reputational risk to the industrial hemp industry, around the word cannabis, we must remove this risk to allow investment to flow into the industry.

The Misuse of Drugs (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2006 very clearly defines what Industrial hemp and hemp product are. Therefore all sources of hemp product must come from licensed growers in New Zealand or other industrial hemp businesses overseas which also have strict THC levels and licencing requirements.

In accordance with the objective of the regulations these hemp products should be able to be distributed to consumers.

The ministry needs to change their thinking re MODA, by clearly defining marijuana and then referring to this when talking about the drug variety. This acknowledges that industrial hemp is a different form of cannabis. This helps the public to be aware of the legal industrial hemp industry and the economic potential it represents.

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