

## **Designation of Sampling Agents Under the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program**

USDA regulations require that all hemp produced under the USDA, State or Tribal hemp production plans be tested for THC concentration levels. Only USDA- approved sampling agents, or a Federal, State or local law enforcement agent authorized by USDA may collect samples. As part of their hemp plans, States and Tribes must have a process in place to designate sampling agents to collect hemp samples within their jurisdiction. USDA has created a training module for sampling agents. All sampling agents must have this training before conducting sampling. The [Hemp Sampling Training module \(pdf\)](#) is available under [Information for Sampling Agents](#) on the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program page.

The training module explains the regulations and requirements for hemp sampling including sampling procedures, necessary equipment and supplies, collection methods, transportation, and chain of custody requirements.

### **Quick Facts**

- A hemp producer may not collect their own hemp samples. Hemp samples are collected only by an approved sampling agent.
- The producer or an authorized representative of the producer must be present when sampling occurs.
- The sampling agent must have full access to the hemp production facility in which they are collecting samples from.
- The hemp cannot be harvested prior to a sample being taken.
- Harvest may not occur more than 15 days after a sample is taken.
- The sample agent will verify the GPS coordinates of the growing area as compared with the GPS coordinates submitted by the licensee to USDA.
- States and Tribes may have more stringent requirements for sampling agents than required by the USDA.
- It is the responsibility of the licensed producer to pay any fees associated with sampling.

**What is a sampling agent?** A sampling agent is approved to sample hemp that is produced under a State, Tribal or the USDA hemp program. The sampling agent will collect the sample from the field or greenhouse and send the sample to a laboratory.

**Why do sampling agents need to be approved by USDA?** Sampling agents must be approved to ensure all hemp is sampled according to the requirements to ensure proper chain of custody.

**Who can be an approved sampling agent?** Sampling agents can be law enforcement officials, state or tribal employees, laboratory employees, state or tribal contractors or others, as appropriate.

**How can you become an approved sampling agent?** Contact your State, Tribe or the USDA Hemp Program if you are interested in becoming a sampling agent. Sampling agents will have to complete the training and any additional requirements that the State or Tribe might require.

Procedures for sampling are detailed in the [Guidelines for Sampling \(pdf\)](#) under [Information for Sampling Agents](#) on the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program page.