



**WILTON SIMPSON  
COMMISSIONER**

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Plant Industry

**POST-HARVEST SAMPLING MANUAL**

Section 581.217, F.S. / Rule 5B-57.014(8), F.A.C.  
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Under the authority of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Florida legislature has created a program to regulate the cultivation of Hemp. Pursuant to Section 581.217, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“Department”) is charged with the responsibility to manage that program.

Among other requirements, hemp must have a Total delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol that does not exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis. This manual outlines the regulatory sample collection procedures that must be followed for sampling hemp post-harvest.

**I. Definitions.**

1. “Hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof, and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers thereof, whether growing or not, that has a Total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.
2. “Lot” means hemp harvested from a contiguous area in a field, greenhouse, or indoor growing structure used for cultivation of the same variety or strain of Hemp.
3. “Post-harvest sample” means a sample representative of a harvested Lot. The entire Lot’s harvest must be unprocessed in the same form (e.g., intact-plant, flowers, ground materials, etc.), representative of the Lot, and not mixed with non-hemp materials or hemp materials from another Lot.

**II. Preparation/Supplies.**

Disposable gloves  
Sterile probe/scoop  
Sheers or single use scalpel  
Alcohol wipes  
Paper bags  
Tamper resistant tape  
Ruler or measuring tape  
Stapler  
“Sample by FDACS” stickers and packaging tape  
Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev.  
04/21 Tyvek or similar disposable sleeves

### III. Collection Protocols.

A Post-harvest sample should be collected for each Lot identified.

1. Assemble all necessary forms and sampling equipment.
2. Identify Lot of hemp to be sampled.
  
3. Documentation
  - a. Obtain all documents relevant to the origin of the Lot being sampled.
  - b. Obtain certificate of analysis, if the firm has previously had the lot tested for Total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration.
  
4. For Intact-Plant Post-Harvest Samples:
  - a. If the plant is intact, a representative sample would consist of clippings from the plant's primary stem or branches, including floral material from random areas of the plants. Do not remove any stalks, stems, flowers, seeds, or leaves from the clipping.
  - b. Refer to the table below for the total clippings required from each Lot. The total clippings required below must be taken evenly among the four quadrants:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Where the total number of plant clippings cannot be evenly divided by four, the remainder may be taken from anywhere in the Lot.

Lot size in harvested acres	Total number of plant clippings for each representative sample
< 1	1 sample
≥ 5 but < 20	1 sample per acre
≥20 but <30	25
≥30 but <40	35
>40 but <50	45
≥50 but <75	50
≥75 but <100	65
≥100	see note below**

\*\*Note: For harvested acres over 100 acres, add 15 samples per 25 additional acres

- c. Place the sample in a paper bag, close and seal the bag with tamper resistant tape.
- d. Staple a completed **Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, to the paper bag containing the representative sample.
- e. Seal the paper bag with tamper resistant tape.
- f. Each representative sample with the attached **Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, must be placed in the mail or delivered to lab for analysis within one business day of collection.
- g. Use single use/disposable equipment or thoroughly clean sampling equipment and change disposable gloves after taking each representative sample collection.

5. For Chopped or Ground Hemp Material

- a. Divide the Lot evenly into four (4) quadrants.
- b. A representative sample would consist of draws from non-adjacent areas. Each draw should consist of a handful or sterile scoop of biomass (approximately one cup by volume). The draws should be taken evenly from each quadrant according to the table below.

Note: Draws should not just be from the top of bulk containers, depths should vary. Utilize Tyvek or similar disposable sleeves if reaching deep into a container.

Note: Take care not to spill or drop portions of the sample. If spillage does occur return all spillage to the container being sampled - do not include spillage into the sample itself.

Lot size in harvested acres	Total number of draws for each representative sample
< 1	1 sample
≥ 5 but < 20	1 sample per acre
≥20 but <30	25
≥30 but <40	35
≥40 but <50	45
≥50 but <75	50
≥75 but <100	65
≥100	see note below**

\*\*Note: For harvested acres over 100 acres, add 15 samples per 25 additional acres

- c. Place the sample in a paper bag, close and seal the bag. Seal the paper bag with tamper resistant tape.
- d. Staple a completed **Cannabis Sample Submission Form FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, to the paper bag containing the representative sample.
- e. Each representative sample with the attached **Cannabis Sample Submission Form, FDACS-08114, Rev. 04/21**, must be placed in the mail or delivered to lab for analysis within one business day of collection.
- f. Thoroughly clean sampling equipment and change disposable gloves after taking each representative sample collection (e.g., using alcohol wipes).