

Ohio Cannabis Retailer: Sales to Begin in Next Few Weeks

Ohio Begins Issuing Certificates of Operation for Recreational Cannabis Sales

The State of Ohio's Division of Cannabis Control has started issuing certificates of operation to cannabis businesses in the Tri-State area, marking a significant step towards the launch of recreational marijuana sales in the state. Among the recipients is Cresco Labs, a major player in the cannabis industry, which operates five stores in the region.

Dual-Use Certification and Its Implications

Cresco Labs announced that it received its dual-use operational license, which allows the company to cultivate and process cannabis for both recreational and medical use. This dual certification is a key aspect of Ohio's regulatory framework, aiming to streamline operations for cannabis businesses and ensure a consistent supply for both markets.

Jason Erkes, chief communications officer for Cresco Labs, emphasized that the state has begun inspections of retail dispensaries, and he anticipates sales to commence within the next few weeks. "There haven't been any retail stores in the state who have been approved yet to operate," *Erkes* said. "As soon as that happens, that's when the whole program will launch."

Regulatory Compliance and Operational Readiness

The process of obtaining certification involves rigorous compliance checks, including security measures and staff training. *Erkes* highlighted that the company's Yellow Springs operation received a license relatively quickly, but noted the complexities involved in meeting state regulations. "Going through and making sure your security is working, making sure your staff is trained—things like that," he explained.

Cresco Labs' retail arm, Sunnyside Dispensary, which has a location in Cincinnati, is also awaiting certification. Once granted, this will allow the dispensary to begin selling recreational cannabis, expanding the company's reach and customer base in Ohio.

Background: Issue 2 and the Path to Recreational Sales

The move towards recreational cannabis sales in Ohio follows the approval of Issue 2 by voters in November. This legislation paved the way for the legal sale of recreational marijuana in the state, prompting the Division of Cannabis Control to begin accepting applications for recreational sales on June 7.

The introduction of recreational cannabis sales is expected to significantly impact Ohio's economy, generating new revenue streams and creating job opportunities within the cannabis industry. The dual-use certification model adopted by the state aims to support a seamless transition from medical to recreational

sales, providing a robust regulatory framework that ensures product safety and compliance.

Looking Ahead: The Launch of Recreational Sales

As the Division of Cannabis Control continues to issue certificates of operation, the focus is now on the timely launch of recreational cannabis sales. The approval of retail stores is the final hurdle before the program can fully commence, with businesses like Cresco Labs poised to expand their operations and meet the anticipated demand.

Industry stakeholders and consumers alike are watching closely as Ohio navigates this new regulatory landscape. The successful implementation of recreational cannabis sales could serve as a model for other states considering similar measures, highlighting the importance of regulatory compliance and operational readiness.

With the market set to open soon, Ohio is on the cusp of a significant transformation in its cannabis landscape, offering new opportunities for businesses and consumers across the state.

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