



**The complicated legal status of delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol doesn't stop the burgeoning market from thriving across the nation.**

*by Benjamin M. Adams, Jacob Cannon and Addison Herron-Wheeler*

The legal status of delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-8-THC), a somewhat psychoactive compound derived from hemp, is one of the murkiest topics *High Times* has covered. At the federal level, it is legal to be sold and marketed across the nation, but

it's unclear how long that will last.

So far, at least 11 states have banned the compound: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, Rhode Island and Utah. Delta-8-THC regulations are also beginning to appear elsewhere, differing from state to state. Oregon, for instance, authorizes hemp-derived delta-8-THC in intrastate transfers if the product falls under that state's Department

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For those interested in finding safe, lab-tested delta-8-THC, more regulation is the key. This will ensure lab-testing is being done on all products. Fortunately, hemp businesses like THCXtract are already offering safe, lab-tested product. THCXtract founder Christopher Baer believes that overregulation can be harmful to small businesses because some requirements, such as obtaining an operating license, can be extremely onerous. But as an entrepreneur who imposes strict testing requirements for his products, Baer still believes some regulation is important to protect the consumer.

“The only regulation I believe is necessary is to require full-panel lab testing on all products to ensure the absence of heavy metals, microbials, pesticides, solvents and other harmful chemicals,” Baer says. “While hemp is small-business friendly, the downside is that it is up to the ethics of the business to decide whether or not to distribute products that have been fully tested. Customers should get products that are safe to use.”

Baer also supports imposing age requirements to purchase products containing delta-8-THC. “I see that Oregon is not actually banning delta-8, but they are banning the sale of delta-8 to people under 21,” he says. “They are also considering requiring THC products to be tested for safety before sale. These are regulations I can stand behind and welcome with open arms, as we only distribute products that have full-panel lab testing.”

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***"The benefits with delta-8 are specifically neurological; they bind with the [cannabinoid-1] receptors. It's better than CBD for that, and I think it's really unique from all other cannabinoids in that way."***

***—Zach Dorsett***

#### **Here to Stay**

Of all the company leaders we chatted with, they all shared a similar sentiment—that delta-8-THC will be around for a while. We may just be seeing the beginning of this emerging compound. Much like CBD's popularity has exploded in the wellness world over the last decade, cannabis and its more than 100 cannabinoids hold potential for heightened recreation, medical treatment and so much more.

"We believe this is really the beginning of an industry," MoonWLKR's Suri said. "I know that there is some controversy about the entire industry, since it's a threat to companies in the health and wellness space, but they can only stand their ground for so long. Millions of new consumers are gravitating every day toward the benefits of hemp and cannabis, and I hope that continues. I don't see any signs of it slowing down."

Until there is more guidance from federal agencies, it appears delta-8-THC products are legal to sell in most states, unless specific state laws are enacted against doing so. In the meantime, industry professionals are providing consumers with in-demand products that are expected to grow in popularity. **HT**