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DLCA Orders Immediate Halt to Sale of Intoxicating Hemp Products Under New Law

Under Act No. 9072, retailers must immediately remove THCA, Delta-6, Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC products from shelves unless licensed by the Office of Cannabis Regulation, with fines, permit revocation, and license loss for repeat violations.

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Retailers across the U.S. Virgin Islands are being ordered to immediately cease the sale of certain intoxicating hemp products under Act No. 9072, which was signed into law on January 23, 2026, according to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.

In a press release issued Thursday, DLCA notified all retailers that the new law makes it unlawful to possess, sell, or manufacture tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), Delta-6 THC, Delta-8 THC,

Delta-10 THC, and other intoxicating hemp or artificially derived cannabinoid products unless properly licensed by the Office of Cannabis Regulation.

Effective immediately, retailers currently carrying these products must stop selling them. The department said all affected items must be removed from shelves, secured from public access, and reported. Businesses are also required to coordinate with the Virgin Islands Department of Health regarding safe storage and to submit a full inventory list to the Office of Cannabis Regulation.

The new statute establishes a legal pathway for businesses that wish to continue operating in this market. It creates an “Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer” license and outlines regulatory standards that include independent laboratory testing, strict age verification for customers 21 years of age and older, child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging, and a ban on products designed to resemble candy or snack items.

DLCA warned that noncompliance will trigger escalating penalties. A first violation carries a \$2,500.00 fine. A second violation within twelve months carries a minimum \$5,000.00 fine. Repeated violations may result in permit revocation, and businesses cited three or more times within eighteen months may lose their business license.

The department further noted that law enforcement agencies are authorized to seize illegal products, issue citations, and make arrests when necessary. Compliance inspections will begin immediately.

Retailers are strongly encouraged to take prompt action to avoid enforcement measures.

“This law is about protecting our community, especially our youth, and ensuring that businesses operate responsibly and within the law,” the release states. “We understand that change can be challenging, but compliance is not optional. We will approach enforcement fairly and professionally, but we will enforce the law.”

For compliance guidance, retailers may contact the Office of Cannabis Regulation at (340) 714-9755 or via email at info.ocr@ocr.vi.gov.