



Small Business Economic Impact Assessment

Agencies are required to consider costs imposed on business and costs associated with compliance with proposed rules. Agencies are not required under chapter 19.85 RCW to consider indirect costs not associated with compliance.

While the proposed rule simplifies some aspects, such as eliminating the need for special sample unit sizes, they introduce costs related to additional labeling, storage, and enhanced record-keeping requirements. These costs may be partly offset by the elimination of the need for special sample sizes and the simplification of product tracking. Additionally, there may be costs associated with destroying existing sample units that do not comply with new rules, once effective. A transition period of six months will be provided to adjust to the new regulations helping mitigate potential financial impacts on businesses.

Using NAICS code 111918 for cannabis grown in an open field, the US Census North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) describes this code for “This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one of the following: (1) growing crops (except oilseeds and/or grains; vegetables and/or melons; fruits and/or tree nuts; greenhouse, nursery, and/or floriculture products; tobacco; cotton; sugarcane; hay; sugar beets; or peanuts); (2) growing a combination of crops (except a combination of oilseed(s) and grain(s); and a combination of fruit(s) and tree nut(s)) with no one crop or family of crops accounting for one-half of the establishment's agricultural production (i.e., value of crops for market); or (3) gathering tea or maple sap.” The US Census NAICS code description at <https://www.census.gov/naics/?input=cannabis&year=2022&details=111998> identifies cannabis grown in an open field as an example of a business that uses this code.

Using NAICS code 424590 for cannabis merchant wholesalers, the US Census NAICS describes this code for “This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in the merchant wholesale distribution of farm products (except grain and field beans, livestock, raw milk, live poultry, and fresh fruits and vegetables).” The US Census NAICS code description at <https://www.census.gov/naics/?input=cannabis&year=2022&details=424590> identifies cannabis merchant wholesalers, as an example of a business that uses this code.

LCB applied the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 453998 for marijuana stores. The industry descriptions for these codes is presented in the table below, and can be accessed at <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/econ/2017-naics-manual.html>.

LCB applied a default cost when analyzing whether the rules would have a disproportionate impact on small businesses as defined in RCW 19.85.020(3). Per RCW 19.85.020(2), a minor cost means a cost per business that is less than three-tenths of one percent of annual revenue or income, or one hundred dollars, whichever is greater, or one percent of annual payroll.



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According to Department of Revenue data from 2023, the total gross business income for NAICS code 459991 was \$647,617,610 for 493 businesses. That produces an average annual gross business income of \$1,313,625.98. Three-tenths of one percent of \$1,313,625.98 is \$3,940.877, rounding up to \$3,940.88.

The remainder of the data is provided by reference to the minor-cost threshold calculator provided by the Office of Regulatory Innovation & Assistance available at https://www.oria.wa.gov/Portals/oria/VersionedDocuments/RFA/Regulatory_Fairness_Act/Minor-Cost-Threshold-Calculator.xlsx

2022 Industry NAICS Code	Estimated Cost of Compliance	Industry Description	NAICS Code Title	Minor Cost Estimate	1% of Avg Annual Payroll (Threshold)	0.3% of Avg Annual Gross Business Income (Threshold)
111419	\$500.00	Cannabis, grown under cover	Other Food Crops Grown Under Cover	\$3,259.51	\$3,259.51 2021 Dataset pulled from ESD	\$3,195.50 2021 Dataset pulled from DOR
111998	\$500.00	Cannabis, grown in an open field	All Other Miscellaneous Crop Farming	\$11,775.64	\$11,775.64 2021 Dataset pulled from ESD	\$2,882.31 2021 Dataset pulled from DOR
424590	\$500.00	Cannabis merchant wholesalers	Other Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers	\$8,809.55	\$3,948.77 2021 Dataset pulled from ESD	\$8,809.55 2021 Dataset pulled from DOR
459991	\$500.00	Marijuana stores, recreational or medical	Tobacco, Electronic Cigarette, and Other Smoking Supplies Retailers	\$3,940.88	Unavailable*	\$3,940.88 2023 Dataset pulled from DOR

As the table demonstrates, the estimated cost of compliance does not exceed the threshold for any of the potential NAICS codes applicable to cannabis licensees. Therefore, implementation of this amended rule is not anticipated to result in more than minor costs on businesses as defined in RCW 19.85.020(2).

Conclusion

The amendments being proposed to WAC 314-55-096 are a direct outcome of the rigorous stakeholder engagement process, demonstrating the LCB’s commitment to crafting regulations that are both practical and responsive to industry needs. These changes are expected to foster a more dynamic, efficient, and safe cannabis market,



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aligning regulatory practices with business operations and public health and safety objectives.

Attachments

Attachment A: WACA petition and WACA suggestions regarding WAC 314-55-096

Attachment B: Informal comment period feedback matrix

Attachment C: NWCS comments and sampling revamp proposal

Attachment D: Survey results

Attachment E: Collaborative Rulemaking Discussion Presentation