



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

www.agr.georgia.gov

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Writer's Direct:

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Debra Deberry
Georgia Hemp Solutions, LLC
P. O. Box 1303
Decatur, GA 30031

Dear Ms. Deberry

This letter is to provide an update regarding recent changes made to the Georgia Hemp Farming Act during the 2021 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. House Bill 336 was signed by Gov. Kemp on May 7, 2021 and included amendments to the surety bond requirement for Georgia Hemp Processors. The changes became effective upon Gov. Kemp's signature. You can visit www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59402 to view HB 336.

Specifically, please note that a new Code Section, O.C.G.A. § 2-23-6.1, provides that the surety bond for Processors will be set at 2% of the amount of hemp purchased from licensed hemp growers in the most recent calendar year. This law further establishes a minimum bond requirement of \$300,000 and a maximum bond requirement of \$1 million.

Please also note that the law does not include an exemption for current Permit holders. Accordingly, in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Georgia Hemp Farming Act, your surety bond will need to be increased. Attached, please find the Georgia Permitted Processor Report of Hemp Purchased. Please complete and submit this report within 30 days of the date of this letter. The report will be used to determine the new amount of your required surety bond. The Georgia Permitted Processor Report of Hemp Purchased may be mailed to Georgia Department of Agriculture, Attn: Hemp Program, 1109 Experiment Street, Redding Bldg., Griffin, GA 30223 or submitted in PDF format to hemp@agr.georgia.gov. Please note that failure to timely submit this form and/or provide a new bond in the required amount may result in the immediate cancellation of your Georgia Hemp Processor Permit. A copy of the surety bond template is also attached hereto for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Evans
Program Director
Plant Protection Section

Attachments: Surety Bond
Georgia Permitted Processor Report of Hemp Purchased