



INDIAN RIVER CRIME LABORATORY AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

4602 Kirby Loop Road • Fort Pierce, Florida 34981

Phone: (772) 462-3600 • Fax: (772) 462-3642



ALI-177-T

PLEASE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY

March 16, 2020

Submitting Agency Representative:

As of March 3, 2020 the Indian River Crime Laboratory (IRCL) has implemented a method to test plant material to determine whether or not the level of THC is above or below a level of 3% in a tested sample. If the plant material is above the 3% THC threshold point, that is confirmation that the evidence is illegal *Cannabis* and not legal Hemp as defined in F.S. 893. If the plant material is below the 3% THC threshold, then the laboratory cannot confirm that the substance is illegal *Cannabis* to the exclusion of hemp, industrial hemp, or low-THC *Cannabis* and the results will be reported as “Sample present was insufficient for positive identification.” The implemented procedure is based on the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) threshold testing method with any modifications tested and validated at the IRCL.

Due to the newly implemented method being more costly, labor and time intensive than previous testing procedures, as of the date of this notification, IRCL will only accept suspected *Cannabis* plant material that meets the felony charge limit of 20g or more. Other requests for this form of testing will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will require documented prior authorization by the State Attorney’s Office and/or a laboratory analyst for submission. At this time, this method is only approved for pre-dried plant material. Samples that contain suspected THC in liquids, edibles, vape cartridges, etc. do not qualify for THC threshold testing.

With respect to post July 1, 2019 non-plant matter *Cannabis* and *Cannabis* product samples (e.g. hashish, hashish oil, electronic cigarette cartridges, edibles, etc.) the analytical scheme will follow current macro/microscopic analysis, color tests and instrumental analysis. Reported results will be limited to “Sample present was insufficient for positive identification.” and associated remarks of “Please be advised that based on the analytical procedures utilized, this sample indicates a higher abundance of [CBD/THC] compared to [THC/CBD], which [would/would not] indicate a potential natural Hemp product, however this could not be confirmed. If analysis is necessary to determine the percent of THC present in this sample, additional analysis will be required that is not provided by the laboratory.”

In the event there are any questions or concerns regarding this notification please do not hesitate to contact me with your feedback.

Respectfully,

Lesley Perrone
Laboratory Director

AN ASCLD/LAB-International ACCREDITED TESTING LABORATORY SINCE AUGUST 9, 2011

Serving . . . St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties