

CBD sector on standby for release of FSA's list of permitted products

ACI will be first to publish the full list at www.UKCBDList.com

London, 25 January 2022 – The UK's consumer health sector is set for its biggest shake-up in more than a decade when the Food Standards Agency (FSA) releases its eagerly-awaited public list of cannabinoid (CBD) products permitted for sale to consumers.

Only products on the list will be able to stay on the market, while those not included will have to be taken off sale. It is anticipated that Trading Standards officers will apply the new rules immediately, which means companies that continue to sell unlisted CBD products will be putting themselves at risk of enforcement action.

Publication of the list is imminent. The Association for the Cannabinoid Industry (ACI), the trade body for the UK's CBD sector, has stepped in to develop an online resource – www.ukcbd.ist.com – that will enable consumers, retailers and health practitioners to ensure they are buying and selling only permitted products.

For more than 18 months, the FSA has been evaluating the safety of CBD products in line with the UK's Novel Food requirements. This assessment process was accessible to any CBD product formulated for oral use that was on sale in the UK on or before 13 February 2020, with the deadline for applications fixed at 31 March 2021.

Steve Moore, ACI founder, said the release of the list was generating considerable excitement in the legal cannabis extract sector. "The FSA has put in a tremendous amount of work to assess the many applications made, including the super-dossier submitted by ACI on behalf of our members. A key concern will be helping people to find out quickly and easily if the CBD products they are purchasing or offering for sale are permitted and safe. ACI's new website, UKCBDList.com, will be the definitive source of information for determining this."

The UK market for consumer CBD products was worth £690 million in 2021, according to ACI estimates – more than double the level of sales recorded in 2019, when the market was valued at £314 million. The UK is now the world's second largest market for consumer CBD, behind only the US.

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About ACI

The Association for the Cannabinoid Industry (ACI) is the UK's membership organisation for businesses committed to nurturing a safe, legal and flourishing commercial cannabis extract market. ACI's vision is to create an innovative and ethical sector with the highest standards of product quality, consumer satisfaction and regulatory compliance.