

We issue Ship Safety Bulletins for the marine community. Visit our Website at www.tc.gc.ca/ssb-bsn to view existing bulletins and to sign up to receive e-mail notices of new ones.

Subject: **Legalization of cannabis in Canada and vessel operation**

Purpose

Recreational cannabis will be legalized in Canada on October 17, 2018. This bulletin reminds authorized representatives and seafarers of their responsibility to operate vessels safely, taking into account the implications of the *Cannabis Act* and related amendments.

The new laws are:

the *Cannabis Act* (Bill C-45)

An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (Bill C-46)

Scope

This bulletin applies to:

authorized representatives, as defined in the

Keywords:

1. Cannabis
2. Canada Labour Code
3. Canada Shipping Act, 2001

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

AMSP
Marine Personnel and Pilotage

Transport Canada
Marine Safety and Security
Tower C, Place de Ville
330 Sparks Street, 8th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N8

Contact us at: marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free).



Under Bill C-46, it will be illegal to drive while having:

a THC* level between 2 and 5 nanograms (ng)

a level above 5 ng

a blood alcohol concentration of 50 mg per 100 mL of blood, in addition to a THC level of more than 2.5 ng

*THC is the main psychoactive compound in cannabis.

Please note: current impaired-based drug driving offences will continue to apply.

What you need to know

Being impaired by any drug or alcohol while carrying out your work duties can affect your ability to perform. Impairment could negatively impact your watch-keeping duties and other duties related to safety. This, in turn, could have a negative impact on the overall safety of navigation and in marine transportation, including the safety of the public and marine personnel.

Cannabis impairs your ability to:

focus

make decisions

follow instructions

handle equipment and tools

safely operate a vehicle

Operating a vehicle, which includes a vessel, while impaired by cannabis risks property

your job status.

Criminal Code: vessel operation

Under subsection 253(1) of the *Criminal Code*

More information

For more information on Bill C-45, we encourage you to read the following Government of Canada web pages:

[Cannabis laws and regulations](#)