

TAIWAN

ASIA



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



Summary

- THC-containing cannabis is fully illegal in Taiwan; there is no legal medical cannabis program, and foreign prescriptions are not recognized. Cannabis is classified as a Category II narcotic under the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act.
- CBD products are heavily restricted. Only CBD containing $\leq 0.001\%$ THC may potentially be allowed, but only for specific medicines (Epidiolex, Marinol, Sativex, Syndros) and strictly with a prescription and import approval.
- Cannabis use remains illegal, with severe punishments, while enforcement remains firm and reform efforts are limited.

Background

- Under the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act, cannabis is a Category II narcotic. Offenders involved in manufacturing, transporting, or selling may face life imprisonment or a minimum 10-year sentence, plus fines up to NT\$15 million.
- In 2020, regulations clarified that clearly defined CBD products ($\leq 0.001\%$ THC) are allowable, but only under very tight constraints: prescription, importation, and limited to specific pharmaceutical formulations.
- In April 2025, Taiwan's Ministry of Justice reaffirmed that cannabis (including CBD) remains a Category II controlled substance, punishable as serious crimes; only medically approved CBD may be used under specific pharmaceutical regulations.

Non-Medical Cannabis

- Recreational cannabis remains completely illegal, with no tolerance or decriminalization measures.
- Enforcement is strict and the government continues to treat cannabis as a serious public safety threat, with no nearing legal reform.



Traveling to Taiwan with Medical Cannabis

Import & Possession Prohibited

- No general legal exception exists for bringing in cannabis products (THC or CBD) without approval.
- Only four pharmaceutical formulations (Epidiolex, Marinol, Sativex, Syndros) may be imported but require a valid doctor's prescription and pre-approval from the Taiwan FDA (TFDA). Any other cannabis-derived products (including CBD oils, edibles, or general wellness items) are prohibited.
- Taiwan Customs prohibits cannabis products as food additives, and any unauthorized import may face seizure and judicial action.

Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Do not carry any cannabis-derived products, including CBD, even if obtained legally elsewhere.
2. If you rely on a legitimate cannabinoid-based pharmaceutical, arrange in advance for a prescription and apply for import approval via TFDA.
3. Bring only non-cannabis medications, clearly labeled and in original packaging.
4. Verify that any wellness or cosmetic items contain zero cannabinoids.
5. Develop fallback treatment plans using legally permitted therapies, since access to cannabis, even medicinal, is extremely limited.

Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) Contact Information

- Address: Bldg. F, No. 109, Lane 130, Section 1, Academia Road, Nangang District, Taipei City 115, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
- Telephone number: +886-2-2787-8000
- Email: service@fda.gov.tw

Practical Tips

- Cannabis (THC or CBD) is broadly illegal in Taiwan. The only permitted pathway is via TFDA-approved prescription pharmaceuticals containing trace THC.
- Legal risks are high. Even small amounts of unapproved cannabis or CBD can trigger arrest, fine, or imprisonment.
- If medical cannabis is essential, secure it before arrival via formal channels, or seek treatment in a jurisdiction with clear medical access.
- For clarification, contact the Taiwan FDA (TFDA) and consult your embassy before traveling. Don't rely on informal advice or assumptions.

The information provided reflects the most current data available; however, as cannabis laws are continually evolving, this content should not be interpreted as legal advice.

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