

FRANCE

EUROPE



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



Summary

Recreational cannabis remains illegal in France. A limited medical trial is in progress (until at least March 2026), accessible only to French residents through approved channels. Non-residents cannot access this program directly. Importing certain cannabis-based medicines may be allowed under strict conditions by French Customs.

Background

Cannabis has been illegal since 1953 under French drug laws.

An experimental medical program was launched in 2021 and recently extended to 2026, supervised by the ANSM (French Health Agency) and involving hospital pharmacies.

Only authorized products (e.g. Sativex, Epidiolex, Marinol) are available, more widely permitted within the pilot.

Non-Medical Cannabis

Possession/downloading of cannabis is illegal and punishable by fines (\approx €200) or imprisonment for larger quantities.

Cultivation, sale, or distribution of recreational cannabis can result in up to 10 years in jail and €7.5 million fine.

CBD products (\leq 0.3% THC) are legal and regulated under industrial hemp laws



Traveling to France with Medical Cannabis

Import Requirements:

French Customs permits the importation of narcotic or psychotropic medical drugs for personal therapeutic use, limited to one month's supply.

- Travelers from Schengen countries need a prescription and a transport certificate from ANSM/regional health agency
- Travelers from non-Schengen countries must carry a doctor's prescription (up to 3 months old) and ANSM transport certificate for narcotics.
- The imported drug must be ANSM- or EMA-approved, or part of the pilot trial.

Not Allowed:

- Recreational cannabis, raw flower, vapes, or non-trial THC products.
- Foreign-only prescriptions not supported by approved medicine or ANSM documentation.
- Tourists cannot access France's medical trial program.
- You may bring certain approved cannabis-based medicines (e.g., Sativex) if you have:
 - A valid doctor's prescription
 - An ANSM transport certificate
 - Less than a 30-day supply
 - Documentation in French for customs
- CBD-only products ($\leq 0.3\%$ THC) are allowed, but ensure you carry lab certificates and original packaging.
- Travelers should contact the French consulate or ANSM in advance to arrange required transport permits.

Steps to Take Before Departure:

- Obtain a valid prescription for your medical cannabis, issued by a licensed doctor in your country. Ensure the prescription includes:
 - Full name
 - Medical condition
 - Exact cannabis medication name, dosage, form (e.g., oil, capsule, spray)
 - Prescribing doctor's license number and contact details
- Prepare a doctor's letter (recommended, but optional) explaining your diagnosis and treatment plan.

- Pack the medication in original packaging, with your name clearly visible on the pharmacy label.
- Bring no more than a 30-day supply of cannabis medication.
- Contact ANSM (Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé) in advance to request approval.
- Carry a translated version of your prescription and doctor's letter in French, if possible.
- Avoid traveling with any form of cannabis flower or unregistered oils, even if they are for medical use.
- If you are bringing CBD products, ensure they contain 0% THC and come with lab reports proving compliance.

Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé (ANSM) Contact Information

Address: 143-147 Boulevard Anatole France, 93285 Saint-Denis Cedex, France

Phone: +33 1 55 87 30 00

Email (General Inquiries): dajr@ansm.sante.fr -for medical device queries, or use general contact form.

Website: ansm.sante.fr

Practical Tips

- Do not attempt to import recreational cannabis.
- Only bring approved medicines with proper documentation and an ANSM certificate.
- Prescription must be French or translated and issued within 3 months.
- Be prepared to show all documentation at customs.
- Confirm approval from ANSM or your consulate before travel.

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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