

State of Louisiana  
Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control

John Bel Edwards  
Governor



Juana Marine-Lombard  
Commissioner

October 25, 2018

**PRESS RELEASE:  
ATC BANS PRODUCTS CONTAINING  
CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) discovered 10 locations in 5 parishes that were selling products containing tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) to the general public in the past week. These entities were primarily gas stations. The five parishes where the products were discovered were (East Baton Rouge Parish, Ascension Parish, Livingston Parish, Tangipahoa Parish and Vernon Parish). Commissioner Juana Marine Lombard summarily suspended 6 businesses' permits and set an additional 4 for an expedited hearing. The agency is acting to ensure public safety because retailers stocking and selling these types of products is becoming a recurring problem.

The sale of products containing (THC) is illegal and is a violation of La R.S. 26: 901(31). THC or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects. The sale of controlled substances is a violation of the laws and regulations as mandated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) (81 FR 90194), the United States Controlled Substance Act (U.S.C. 21:812 et seq.) and the Louisiana Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law (La. R.S. 40:961 et seq.). Products containing any amount of THC should not be sold in retail establishments such as gas stations, tobacco shops, vape shops or convenience stores.

In the past six months, ATC has also discovered and banned a number of other products carried in retail locations across the state. These products also contain controlled dangerous substances and/or its synthetic derivatives. Pursuant to Louisiana state law any substance listed as a controlled dangerous substance, any substance considered a legend drug, or any substance that requires a prescription cannot be sold on the open market through a retail location. Therefore, it is illegal for tobacco wholesalers or novelty wholesalers to carry these products. A listing of products discovered this year can be found on the ATC's website at <http://www.atc.rev.state.la.us/>. Please note, this list is not exhaustive and the store owners are ultimate responsibility for the products offered for sale and public consumption.

ATC has provided copies of the listing of the current banned products to tobacco and vape retailers and wholesalers. Due to the eminent public safety risk, ATC is taking an aggressive stance against the sale and distribution of any illegal schedule drugs, legend drugs (drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that can be dispensed to the public only with a prescription from a medical doctor or other licensed practitioner) and of any

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synthetically produced drugs distributed from permitted locations. Retailers which knowingly carry products containing Controlled Dangerous Substances or those that continue to carry products on the published list will face disciplinary action that could result in license suspension/revocation. The ATC will continue to have products tested for prohibited substances. If additional products are found to contain illegal substances, the list will be updated.

Should you have any questions regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Juana Marine-Lombard,  
Commissioner Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control