

We continue to receive more and more calls about the use of CBD oil. As states across the country continue to legalize marijuana, a new industry is growing. In addition to dispensaries, CBD-infused coffees, burgers with CBD aioli and CBD tinctures are appearing at restaurants, cafes and health food stores with dizzying speed — often in states where marijuana is still illegal. Some companies are even offering topical creams, bath bombs and other relaxation and pain-relief products with CBD, as a natural alternative to pain medication. However, it is our stance that flight attendants do not use CBD oil to treat aches and pains. Even if derived from hemp, a variation of Cannabis Sativa with a very low concentration of THC, using the oil could and has tested positive in a DOT drug test.

Looking at THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) concentrations alone, some may assume that only marijuana-based CBD oil has the potential to show up in a DOT drug panel. But even hemp derived CBD oils can register at a level that is considered a DOT drug testing violation.

The use of THC is forbidden, no matter the source, which means medical and recreational marijuana and some CBD oils, even if legal under state law, are federally banned.

Since THC is an absolute under DOT drug testing, a medical review officer (MRO) must not take the medicinal use of a CBD oil into consideration as he or she determines a drug test result.

It's important to remember the following when it comes to CBD oil:

- Trace amounts of THC may show up in a DOT urine specimen.
- MROs will not accept CBD oil as a valid medical explanation for a positive DOT drug test.
- Labels can be misleading. Packaging for CBD oil may claim to be THC-free or below traceable limits, when in fact, they contain enough to be detected during a drug screen.
- CBD oils sold in states with legalized marijuana may have been processed from the marijuana plant, resulting in a higher concentration of THC.

The bottom line, any CBD or THC use is a violation waiting to happen.