

applicant will abuse or unlawfully transfer such substances or fail to safeguard adequately his supply of such substances against diversion from legitimate medical or scientific use.

(i) The Department shall initially permit persons to register who own or operate any establishment engaged in the manufacture, distribution or dispensing of any controlled dangerous substances prior to the effective date of this Act and who are registered or licensed by the State.

(j) Compliance by manufacturers and distributors with the provisions of the Federal law respecting registration (excluding fees) shall be deemed compliance with this section.

282. Denial, Revocation, or Suspension of Registration:

(a) A registration pursuant to Section 281, as amended from time to time, to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled dangerous substance, may be suspended or revoked by the Department upon a finding that the registrant:

(1) has materially falsified any application filed pursuant to this subheading or required by this subheading;

(2) has been convicted of an offense under this subheading or any of the prior laws of this State, of the United States, or of any State, relating to any substances defined herein as a controlled dangerous substance; or

(3) has had his Federal registration suspended or revoked by competent Federal authority and is no longer authorized by Federal law to engage in the manufacturing, distribution, or dispensing of controlled dangerous substances;

(4) has violated any of the provisions of this subheading.

(b) The Department may limit revocation or suspension of a registration to the particular controlled dangerous substance with respect to which grounds for revocation or suspension exist.

(c) Before taking action pursuant to this section or pursuant to a denial of registration under Section 281, the Department shall serve upon the applicant or registrant an order to show cause why registration should not be denied, revoked, or suspended. The order to show cause shall contain a statement of the basis thereof and shall call upon the applicant or registrant to appear before the Department at a time and place stated in the order, but in no event less than thirty days after the date of receipt of the order. Proceedings to deny, revoke, or suspend shall be conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such proceedings shall be independent of, and not in lieu of, criminal prosecutions or other proceedings under this Act or any law of the State.

(d) The Department may, in its discretion, suspend any registration simultaneously with the institution of proceedings under this section in cases where it finds that there is an imminent danger to the public health or safety. Such suspension shall continue in effect until the conclusion of such proceedings, including judicial review thereof, unless sooner withdrawn by the Department or dissolved by the appropriate circuit court or the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City as the case may be.