



Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.



cGMP Certification In Cannabis - What's The Fuss?

Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) are a set of standards created by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to better protect consumers under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act. Requiring systemic quality approaches to manufacturing from development to implementation and documentation of procedures, design, and control of all processes, cGMP is specific to each facility. As such, each facility needs its own cGMP certification. Achieving this recognition can be difficult and costly – why should businesses in the Cannabis Industry make it a goal?

With patchwork regulatory and legal requirements across the country, the cannabis industry is sorely under-regulated. The “Wild West” feeling of some areas where recreational or medical cannabis have recently been legalized can lead to higher risk for consumers as producers rush to market. Without specific nationwide guidance as to safety and quality standards, many in the industry have turned to cGMP certification to demonstrate their dedication to safe, quality products. Having a quality management framework in place even before widespread regulatory mandates are released may also cut down on the amount of work that needs to be done to satisfy those someday expectations.

But what about in the meantime? As a side effect of increased product quality and safety – as well as taking the initiative to self-regulate through certification – your brand credibility may significantly increase, especially in a market as new as cannabis. Properly developed and documented procedures can also reduce the risk of costly recalls, catching product issues before the items in question are distributed – or worse – sicken a customer.

cGMP certification is also an excellent start toward being OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) compliant. Many of the logs required by OSHA standards are included in the documentation needed for cGMP; a great place to start to avoid possible investigations and fines in the future.

With the possibility of cannabis becoming federally legalized, it's wise for cannabis producers to anticipate additional certifications and regulatory requirements to protect consumer safety. Becoming familiar with certification practices and procedures *before* they are required can take the sting out of “coming up to code” whenever federal mandates come into play.

If cGMP sounds like a path your facility would like to pursue, let PJRF SI help you make the first step! Call **(248) 519-2523** or visit www.pjrfsi.com to receive a complimentary quote for certification or to get in touch with a specialist who can answer your questions regarding cGMP and a whole range of other certification options.