



Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.

GACP & GMP Certifications in the Cannabis Industry

The cannabis industry is constantly changing, and at a faster pace than ever before as more and more state and municipal governments legalize medical and recreational use. With more product options and producers entering the market, the oversight and quality control expected by buyers in both camps has surged. But in an industry as diverse as cannabis agriculture and the production of edibles, topicals, etc., what are the best options for guaranteeing the standards set?

There is (so far) no single standard in the industry, as requirements and expectations vary from market to market and state to state. However, while not required of all areas, GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) Certification is an excellent choice for operations working within the production of cannabis goods such as edibles. The requirements of GMP Certification include product handling, cleaning of the equipment used in production, packaging, and quality assurance. There are likewise expectations for employee education and training, as well as requirements for the type/qualities of the equipment inside production facilities.

GACP (Good Agricultural and Collection Practices), on the other hand, is a set of guidelines that covers the cultivation and agriculture angle of the cannabis production process. From seeds to fertilizers to the training of those who harvest and collect the cannabis, GACP defines the entire process for the utmost guarantee of safety.

Since cannabis is considered to be medicinal regardless of its intended end-user experience as recreational or pharmaceutical, growers should abide by both GMP and GACP guidelines regardless of enforcement in their locality. Demonstrating a dedication to the safety and quality of your product – and having consumers' best interests in mind – through certification can be an excellent marketing tool, and may help set producers apart from their competition.



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