

Marijuana Quality Control Testing Rules

On March 2, 2022, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) adopted [marijuana quality control testing rules](#) requiring pesticide testing for all marijuana products produced, processed and sold in Washington. In addition to mandatory testing for pesticides, these updated rules also allow the LCB to test marijuana products for heavy metals on a random basis or as part of an investigation.

The changes to the marijuana quality control testing rules go into effect on April 2, 2022. However, the LCB will designate a transitional period to allow for marijuana products that have already been harvested to be sold within that time. During this time, post-harvest marijuana products that do not comply with the new testing requirements may be sold, distributed, or both within a reasonable period of time to be determined by the Board. The Board will announce details of this transitional period by April 2, 2022.

In addition, the updated marijuana quality control rules:

- Streamline licensee sample collection and storage procedures
- Revise the number of marijuana flower samples required for testing
- Increase the maximum amount of cannabis flower that may be represented by a single I-502 panel of laboratory tests from five pounds to fifty pounds

The changes also:

- Eliminate the of the ability of certified labs to return unused portions of samples to licensees
- Revise guidance to labs regarding when to reject or fail a sample
- Update and expand information regarding testing levels for water activity, potency analysis foreign matter inspection, microbial screening, mycotoxin screening, and residual solvent screening
- Update rule language regarding product retesting, remediation of failed lots, the expiration of certificates of analysis, and referencing of samples
- Update reporting requirements for lab proficiency testing

The LCB believes these rules promote the overarching goal of the Board to protect public health and safety, and help to ensure that all marijuana products sold within the I-502 market are safe for all consumers.

If you have questions about the updated marijuana quality control testing rules, contact Jeff Kildahl, Cannabis Policy and Rules Coordinator, at jeff.kildahl@lcb.wa.gov.