



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

FAQ – Implementation of New Quality Control Rules and Timelines

Producer/Processors

I am a licensed cannabis producer/processor, and have existing inventory that was harvested prior to April 02, 2022.

Q. How long can this product be sold to retailers?

A. With the existing passing certificate of analysis (COA), the product can be sold to licensed retailers until September 30, 2022. This will include product with COAs that are older than 12-months.

Q. Does this product have to pass pesticide testing to be sold after April 02, 2022?

A. No, but it can only be sold to retailers until September 30, 2022 without the mandatory pesticide test.

- After September 30, 2022, all products sold to retailers must have been tested for pesticides.

Q. Can I test my previous product for pesticide only, or do I have to test for everything again?

A. Licensees may conduct a test for pesticides on existing inventory from before April 02, 2022, which can be included as an addendum to previous quality control testing.

- Product that fails the pesticide testing is subject to destruction in accordance with board rules.

Q. If I conduct pesticide testing on product previously holding a valid COA, does that fully renew the existing COA?

A. No, if only pesticide testing is conducted on product passing previous standards, it will be considered an addendum to the existing COA, and will continue to have the same expiration date.

Q. If I choose to have my existing inventory completely retested to the new standards effective April 02, 2022, does that restart the time on the COA?

A. Yes, if existing product is tested, undergoes the full suite of quality control standards effective April 02, 2022, then a new COA would be in effect with a new 12-month expiration.

Q. What product can I have retested?

A. Existing inventory that has not been sold to retailers.

- Any product currently in the retail market will not be eligible for retesting.

Q. If a retailer wants to return existing product, can we allow the return?

A. This is situational:

- Yes, packaged product will be able to be returned, but not for retesting or reselling
- Producer/Processors may offer an exchange of product, but this is at the discretion of the producer/processor, and returned product must follow existing destruction rules.
- Producer/Processors are not obligated to provide exchanges to retailers.

Q. What happens if a retailer does not want to purchase my existing inventory?

A. This is a business decision for the retailer, and they are not obligated to purchase any specific product.

Q. Which types of products have the new requirements?

A. All cannabis product types are included under the rules effective April 02, 2022.

Q. What about medically compliant product, does this need to be retested?

A. No, any medically compliant product meeting the Department of Health medical cannabis program standards will not need to be retested for pesticides, but will still be subject to COA expiration standards after September 30, 2022.

Q. Which labs are allowed to do these new tests?

A. Those that are certified for the tests they are conducting. A current list of “Cannabis; Approved Testing Labs” can be found on the WSLCB website on the [Frequently Requested Lists page](#).

Q. Are labs allowed to conduct a new test for my existing product that was previously tested before April 02, 2022?

A. Yes:

- If the testing is for the full suite of quality control, a new COA can be issued for the product.
- If only pesticide tests are added to previously tested product, then the test results will be an addendum to the existing COA, and the original expiration will not change.

Retailers

I am a licensed cannabis retailer, and have existing inventory that was harvested prior to April 02, 2022.

Q. How long can I sell this existing inventory?

A. Retailers can continue selling product purchased on or before September 30, 2022 until December 31, 2022, regardless of the COA expiration so long as the COA was valid at the time the retailer purchased it.

Q. Which types of products have the new requirements?

A. All cannabis product types are included under the rules effective April 02, 2022.

Q. If I buy product from a producer/processor, am I responsible to ensure the COA is compliant with all testing standards?

A. Retailers have the general responsibility of purchasing product from producer/processors that is not past the COA expiration date, but are not required to assess the COA for technical testing compliance standards.

- Retailers will be allowed to sell pre-April 02, 2022 inventory without an updated COA through December 31, 2022.
- After December 31, 2022, retailers may only sell product that has passed quality control standards under the rules effective April 02, 2022.

Q. Can I ask a producer/process to take product back where the COA is expired?

A. After December 31, 2022, the expiration date for the COA only applies to product sold by producer/processors to retailers.

- Once purchased by the retailer, this product (meeting post April 02, 2022 standards,) may continue to be sold even if the COA expired.
- Retailers may request an exchange, but the producer/processors are not obligated to grant the request.

Q. How long will I have to sell through product I have in inventory?

A. Product that has a valid COA, but was harvested prior to April 02, 2022, may be sold to consumers through December 31, 2022.

- Product that has a valid COA, which was harvested after April 02, 2022 may continue to be sold, so long as the COA was not expired when the retailer purchased the product from the producer/processor.

Q. If I place an order for product, do I need to accept product that does not meet standards effective April 02, 2022

A. No, but we encourage retailers to work with producer/processors to assist with a smooth transition.

- This is a business decision which each retailer must decide related to their inventory management and sell through timeframes.