

## OCal Program Regulations Frequently Asked Questions/Comments

Q. What is the **OCal Program**?

A. The OCal Program develops and enforces rules and regulations for products sold, labeled, or represented as OCal. "OCal" is a labeling term that identifies California commercial cannabis products produced according to the OCal regulations, which are comparable to the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations.

Q. How will the **OCal Program** work?

A. Cultivation or distribution licensees interested in certification will contact a certifying agent that is registered with the OCal Program. If the licensee meets certification requirements, that certifying agent will certify the operation as "OCal." The OCal Program will safeguard certification integrity by overseeing and working with certifying agents to ensure they are certifying consistently and to OCal Program regulations. All certifying agents will be accredited by OCal or the NOP and registered with the OCal program.

Q. Is OCal certification **voluntary or mandatory** for cannabis licensees?

A. OCal certification is voluntary. Eligible licensees can choose to be certified, similar to organic certification at the federal level, if they see value in certification. However, the OCal label cannot be used without OCal certification.

Q. Why are the OCal Program **fees** so much higher than the NOP's fees?

A. The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) includes an appropriation for the NOP that increases each fiscal year so that in 2018 the appropriation was \$15,000,000 and in 2023 it's \$24,000,000. The OCal Program does not receive funding through an appropriation or other subsidy and therefore must be funded through fee collection.

Q. These regulations are only for *non*manufactured cannabis products. What about **manufactured cannabis products**?

A. The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch will be establishing a certification program for manufactured cannabis products by July 1, 2021. CDPH worked closely with CDFA as we were developing our regulations.

Q. When does the **program start**?

A. The OCal Program's statutory start date is January 1, 2021. We anticipate the rules will be in place in December 2020.

## Find More Information

### OCal Regulations

- Accreditation definition, §10000
- Certification definition, §10000
- Allowed and Prohibited Substances and Methods in OCal production, §10105(d)
- The accreditation process, §10400-§10407
- The registration process, §10408-§10411
- Fees, §10600 and §10601

### Other Resources

- OFPA NOP appropriation, [7 USC 94 – Organic Certification](#)
- Definitions for commercial licensing terms used in the OCal regulations:
  - [Bureau of Cannabis Control Text of Regulations](#)
  - [CalCannabis Text of Regulations](#)
  - [Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch Text of Regulations](#)
  - [Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulations and Safety Act \(MAUCRSA\)](#)
- CalCannabis energy requirements, [CalCannabis Text of Regulations](#), §8305
- CalCannabis records of power source, [CalCannabis Text of Regulations](#), §8305(g)