

Sampling Procedures for OCal Cannabis Residue Testing

1. Purpose

This instruction assists certifying agents with establishing procedures for sampling and testing in compliance with OCal regulations.

2. OCal Regulations, Title 3 California Code of Regulations (3 CCR)

3 CCR § 10000. Definitions.

3 CCR § 10105. Allowed and prohibited substances and methods in OCal production.

3 CCR § 10402. Application for accreditation.

3 CCR § 10410. Registration renewal and reporting.

3 CCR § 10711. Inspection, testing and reporting.

3. Policy

The OCal regulations specify sampling and testing requirements for agricultural inputs, cannabis waste, and cannabis that is to be sold, labeled, or represented as OCal.

Samples are to be collected by the registered certifying agent, its inspector, or the department and will be tested to detect the presence of substances prohibited under § 10105 of the OCal regulations.

Certifying agents are required to submit to the OCal Program a copy of their procedures for sampling and testing as a condition of accreditation (OCal regulations § 10402(c)(6)). National Organic Program (NOP) accredited certifying agents may also be asked to submit to the OCal Program a copy of their procedures for sampling and testing. For example, during a complaint investigation that involves application of prohibited substances, the OCal Program may request copies of an NOP-accredited certifying agent's procedures.

All registered certifying agents are required to submit a copy of Certificates of Analysis (COA) for no less than 5 percent of the registered certifying agent's certified operations tested in the previous year pursuant to § 10410(d)(8) and § 10711(d) of the OCal regulations.

4. Procedure

4.1. Conditions Under Which Samples Should Be Collected.

- a. When it is suspected that a prohibited substance has been applied.
- b. When it is suspected that contamination from genetically modified organisms or prohibited substances may have occurred.
- c. When pesticide drift may have occurred.
- d. To gather evidence as part of an investigation.
- e. As part of a surveillance sampling program.

4.2. Sample Selection

Agricultural inputs (i.e. seeds, soil, water, nutrients), cannabis waste, nonmanufactured cannabis and cannabis products intended to be sold, labeled or represented as OCal may be sampled.

Sample collectors may choose to select samples which attempt to detect contamination where it is most likely to occur due to risk factors present at a given operation or a location within an operation.

4.3. Sample Amounts

Sample collectors should collect samples sufficient for processing and reanalysis if necessary. If collecting from multiple containers, sample collectors should confirm the products being sampled are from the same batch.

Certifying agents should work with the lab to determine a sufficient sample amount.

4.4. Sample Integrity

- a. Samples of unpackaged cannabis must be taken using gloved hands (latex or clean rubber gloves) and removed from the plant or storage bins using a clean utensil.
- b. Each sample shall be packed by the sample collector using precautions to prevent sample contamination from commingling or contact with prohibited substances.
- c. Sample collectors should avoid including excess dirt and foliage (as appropriate) from field samples.
- d. Samples should be placed into a clean plastic bag (or other receptacle required by a given laboratory) and sealed with tape to provide a tamper-proof seal.
- e. Samples should be initialed and dated by the sample collector who has bagged the sample. In addition to the initial and date, the outside of each sample bag should be permanently marked with a unique identification code.
- f. Sample collectors should ensure that the transport container is properly sealed and labeled.
- g. Certifying agents should follow any additional lab requirements for maintaining sample integrity for wet cannabis samples.

4.5. Sample Collection and Transport Documentation

- a. Sample ID number.
- b. The date the sample was collected.
- c. Laboratory code.
- d. Certified operation name.
- e. Facility type (i.e. cultivation, cultivation-processor, cultivation-nursery,

distributor)

- f. Identification of sampling site (distributor address or cultivator premises address and premises map).
- g. Cultivator or distributor license number.
- h. Sample identifying information (i.e. harvest batch number, UID, variety name, or other identification).
- i. Total sample size by weight or unit count.
- j. Sampling conditions or problems encountered during the sampling process, if any.
- k. Certifier name.
- l. Collector's name and signature.
- m. Shipper/transporter name.
- n. If not a private person, shipper's commercial cannabis license number.
- o. Ship date.

Note: The certified operation must be provided documentation (i.e., a receipt) when a sample is obtained for analysis.

4.5.1 Laboratory Documentation

Upon arrival at the laboratory, the following information should be recorded by the laboratory and included with the sample results:

- a. Date received.
- b. Name or initials of person receiving the sample.
- c. Explanation for what happened to a sample that is not analyzed (e.g., chain of custody breached, rotten sample, sample miscoded).

5. References

Recommended methods of sampling for the determination of pesticide residues by The Codex Alimentarius Commission. Web. 25 Jan. 2011.
www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/361/CXG_033e.pdf

Codex Alimentarius Commission guidance on which portion of the commodity to be sampled and recommended methods of sample preparation for the determination of residues. Web. 25 Jan. 2011.
www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/43/CXG_041e.pdf

United States. Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Marketing Service. *AMS Pesticide Data Program Standard Operating Procedures: SOP No: PDP SAMP PROC-02*. Revision 7. Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture, 2009. Print.

United States. Environmental Protection Agency. *OCSPP Harmonized Test Guidelines Series 860 - Residue Chemistry Test Guidelines*. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Aug. 1996. Web. 21 Dec. 2010.