



FOCUS
Foundation of Cannabis Unified Standards

OUR MISSION: To protect public health and consumer safety, and safeguard the environment by promoting integrity in the cannabis industry

Qualitative Overview

About Foundation of Cannabis Unified Standards (FOCUS)

FOCUS is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that develops international, cannabis-specific standards and third-party certification for the cannabis industry. FOCUS is dedicated to protecting public health and consumer safety, and safeguarding the environment. FOCUS is the only organization to create voluntary-consensus standards suitable for accreditation and adoption into regulations by assuring impartiality, balance and transparency in the development process. Unlike most standards-setting organizations, FOCUS does not accept dues or fees for standards development, and is not a regulatory agency or industry trade association. This autonomy fosters a principled, objective environment in which comprehensive standards can be developed. FOCUS Standards provide current good manufacturing practice (cGMP) guidelines for all key areas of the cannabis industry including Cultivation, Retail, Extraction, Infused Products, Laboratory, Security, Sustainability, and Packaging & Labeling.

FOCUS Standards Summary

FOCUS standards are a rigorous, comprehensive quality and safety system that provides cannabis business owners, consumers, regulators and the public with a single, concise, accepted standard that protects public health and consumer safety, and safeguards the environment.

FOCUS quality and safety standards are developed according to the American National Standards Institute's balanced stakeholder input process to ensure robust, impartial standards. Volunteer members of the FOCUS Standard Development Committee include diverse experts from the following industries: cannabis, regulatory, quality assurance, medical, law enforcement, business, education, research; as well as consumers, patients and the general public .

FOCUS continually updates existing standards and develops new standards for the cannabis industry. For information on FOCUS services or to participate in future standards development, please visit focusstandards.org.

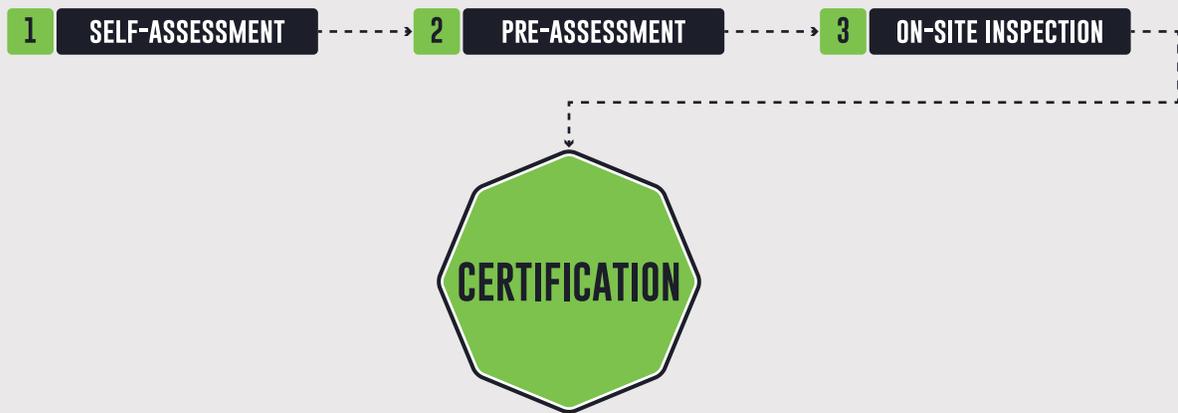
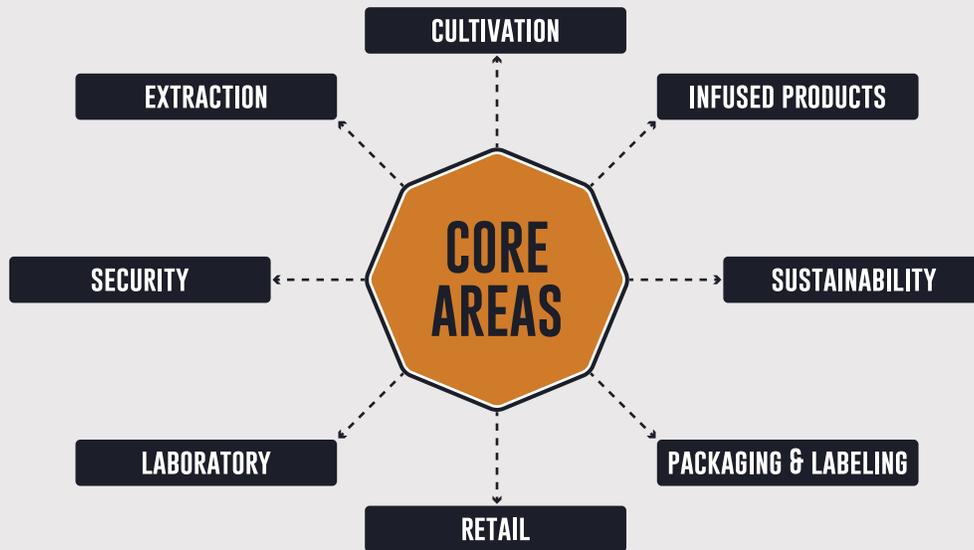
FOCUS Government Services Summary

FOCUS offers program management services to government agencies ranging from research and data management, third-party accredited assessments, training and certification to full statewide cannabis program development, implementation and management. FOCUS participates in legislative and regulatory development, advises government leaders, and works with international governments to develop and manage effective cannabis programs. FOCUS services can be customized to align with the specific needs of each public agency. FOCUS develops and provides public education to engage stakeholders and build integrity for the industry.

FOCUS Certification Process Summary

FOCUS offers an annual safety and quality certification to cannabis businesses based on Current Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Agricultural Practices, Good Laboratory Practices, and FDA, OSHA, FTC, HACCP and Food Safety standards, and relevant standards from law enforcement, OTC, tobacco, alcohol, food supplements and nutraceutical products. FOCUS delivers the standards to clients and regulators using PowerDMS, creating a web-based quality, safety, compliance and training system customized for each business. PowerDMS software equips employees with job knowledge through electronic policy dissemination, certification management, and training capabilities. Currently, FOCUS is undergoing accreditation of its certification process to ISO 17020 through the American National Accreditation Board (ANAB).

FOCUS Certification Process & Benefits



REALIZED BENEFITS

INCREASED QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY

IMPROVED SAFETY & TRAINING

AUTOMATED WORKFLOWS

IMPROVED CONSISTENCY

COMPLIANCE WITH CHANGING REGULATIONS

IMPROVED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

INCREASED REVENUE, DECREASED OPERATING EXPENSES

IMPROVED EMPLOYEE RETENTION & ENGAGEMENT

TRACEABILITY, INCREASED EFFICIENCY, DECREASED RISK

IMPROVED INDUSTRY PERCEPTION & BRAND LOYALTY

EASE OF EXPANSION, REGULATORY ACCEPTANCE

RESOURCE REDUCTION, INCREASED PROFIT MARGIN

Current FOCUS Standards for Certification

FOCUS Certification includes standards for eight core areas of cannabis business operations and management: Cultivation, Retail, Extraction, Infused Products, Laboratory, Security, Sustainability, and Packaging & Labeling.

Cultivation

FOCUS Cultivation Standard covers all aspects of cultivation from management skill and worker safety to production planning, product testing, storage, hygiene and harvesting. The FOCUS audit process includes more than 300 detailed questions in 24 categories designed to guide cannabis grow operations through initial set up, operational stability, continuous improvement and industry-leading performance.

Retail

FOCUS Retail Standard presents a detailed road map of operations including management responsibilities, employee training, operations and security, consumer and patient support, records management, product safety and testing, packaging, and labeling. This standard defines valuable specifications for effective, compliant start-up, as well as long-term benefits such as continuous improvement, efficiency and scalability.

Extraction

FOCUS Extraction Standard provides detailed guidance on critical processes to ensure product purity, safety and traceability. This standard further details worker safety and training, chemicals and hazardous materials, facility management, and equipment installation and testing to ensure worker and product safety.

Infused Products

FOCUS Infused Product Standard provides a comprehensive range of good manufacturing practices including food safety criteria, and guidelines for production, storage, processing, product safety, hazard analysis, equipment, testing, and other vital aspects of infused product manufacturing and distribution. The HACCP guidance and support tools provide detailed specifications to establish and operate a food-safe production facility.

Laboratory

FOCUS Laboratory Standard defines requirements for laboratory management and testing, substance testing, laboratory staff credentials and management, reporting methods and document management. This standard complements existing certification with ISO 17025 and comparable laboratory standards.

Security

FOCUS Security Standard begins with risk assessment and provides requirements for program development, security planning, physical security, alarm systems, video surveillance, traceability, transportation security, background checks, employee training and general operations.

The FOCUS Security standard is incorporated into all core FOCUS standards.

Sustainability

FOCUS Sustainability Standard sets comprehensive guidelines for environmental and business sustainability requirements. Environmental standards include ecosystem management, water use, energy use, chemical elimination, carbon footprint reduction, recycling and waste management. Business standards include regulatory compliance, business assessments and audits, insurance, fair labor practices, human resources, social sustainability and crisis planning.

The FOCUS Sustainability standard is incorporated into all core FOCUS standards.

Packaging & Labeling

FOCUS Packaging & Labeling Standard defines requirements based on existing nutraceutical, dietary supplement, over-the-counter, and pharmaceutical standards. This standard integrates industry knowledge, design-for-manufacturing specifications, applicable regulations, sustainability and future packaging trends to ensure robustness and guide businesses toward full, safe global market access.

The FOCUS Packaging & Labeling standard is incorporated into all core FOCUS standards.