Your A2LA Passport To

Quality in the Cannabis Industry

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
A2LA is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society. A2LA provides world-class accreditation and training services for testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers and product certifiers.

**Why A2LA?** A2LA is the largest, most experienced, multi-discipline accreditation body in the United States. A2LA accreditation is recognized world-wide as an attestation of compliance with international requirements for technical competence. We are the only accreditation body to be partnered with Americans for Safe Access (ASA) in the cannabis industry. In addition, A2LA is the only accreditation body to have achieved IACET accreditation for our training programs. We are the gold standard. Don’t entrust something as important as human health to anything less.

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Cannabis Investors
Looking to invest in one of the fastest-growing industries in the U.S.? Consider this:

Hundreds of millions of dollars are pouring into the legal cannabis industry. It’s been called the “New Gold Rush”. Because of 280E, commercial banks are generally reluctant to loan money to cannabis businesses, thus the opportunities for private investors are tremendous.

But how will you protect your investment?

One recall due to the use of inappropriate pesticides, plants having unacceptable levels of pesticide residues or other contaminants and the resulting bad press could put your investment in jeopardy.

How do you know you’re investing your money with a quality grower, dispensary or laboratory? Partnering with the wrong one could seriously impact your bottom line. There are checks-and-balances already in place to protect you. It’s up to you to make use of them!
Cannabis Growers

Growing cannabis is not easy! Consider this:

It takes knowledge and skill to grow cannabis that will meet state safety, and labeling requirements.

Are your plants at risk of containing unacceptable levels of mold, insects, bacteria or other microbiological contaminants? Will the measures you are taking to prevent these insect pests affect the safety of your plants and/or the downstream derived products? Do you ensure that these materials are appropriately tested for potency and safety and are those test results defensible?

In short, are you taking the health and safety of the end user into account as you strive for the healthiest, most productive plants with the desired cannabinoid profile?

Answer any of these questions incorrectly and you could be out of business before you even get going. Make sure your plants are safe and of maximum benefit to those who will be using them.
Cannabis Dispensaries

What about dispensaries? Aren’t they just the middle man? Consider this:

Cannabis dispensaries face many challenges in today’s marketplace, from legal issues to community acceptance to security. Not the least of these is finding the best source for products.

Operating a dispensary in a still-federally-illegal market, particularly if serving medical patients, you must be extra vigilant in obtaining products that are safe and sourced from producers who are as concerned about your customers as you are.

What would happen to your business if there was a recall because your products weren’t tested for pathogens? What would happen if one of your products was found to be tainted and to have jeopardized a medical patient’s already-compromised immune system?

How do you know your products are safe? Have they been tested? By whom and for what?
Cannabis Testing

It all comes down this!

All parties in the cannabis industry - from investors to end users - must insist upon proper testing of cannabis and cannabis derived products to ensure that they are safe for use and that the label claims are correct.

When choosing a laboratory, it is critical to require an independent, third-party attestation of the laboratory’s competence...a process called “accreditation”.

But not all accreditations are equal. Demand one that is internationally-recognized and that ensures a laboratory’s compliance not only with international standards for competence but also offers an optional, cannabis-specific requirements pertinent to the industry.

Insist upon A2LA accreditation. We are the only accreditation body to partner with Americans for Safe Access (ASA) and to use their Patient Focused Certification (PFC) requirements in this important endeavor.
Cannabis Efficacy

Are the cannabis products you purchase delivering the expected results? Consider this:

Medical cannabis is prescribed to treat a variety of symptoms and medical conditions, from pain to nausea to muscle spasms.

Cannabinoids are most effective when used for specific conditions at the recommended doses for the recommended amount of time.

Make sure the products you buy have been tested by a laboratory accredited by A2LA for a higher certainty that the analysis was performed accurately and the labels are correct. Without A2LA accreditation to support labeling claims of potency and other qualities, how much confidence can you have that the products you buy will consistently deliver the results you need?
Cannabis Safety
Are you sure your cannabis products are safe? Consider this:

Possible contamination of your cannabis products is likely one of the biggest issues when it comes to safety.

Are you sure that the products you use meet state requirements for the absence of pesticides, fungicides, plant growth regulators, residual solvents, mold, insects, bacteria and other microbiological contaminants? What risks do you face if you cannot answer this question with confidence?

Any contamination of a product, particularly one given to medically-compromised individuals, can have far-reaching, adverse and even life-threatening effects.

Insist upon A2LA accredited testing to ensure the safety of your cannabis products.
Why A2LA is the answer:

By choosing an A2LA accredited laboratory, you can be sure that it has been found to meet the most comprehensive criteria for competence. Otherwise, there may be no reliable assurance that a thorough, independent, third-party assessment has been done of the laboratory’s:

- personnel training;
- sampling protocols;
- test method validation;
- performance on proficiency testing;
- control of non-conforming work;
- traceability of measurements;
- compliance with state requirements;
- compliance with Americans for Safe Access (ASA) Patient Focused Certification (PFC) requirements; and
- many other elements that contribute to a laboratory’s overall proficiency and competence.

*Let A2LA take the guesswork out of finding a competent laboratory to protect your investment and the safety and health of all cannabis product end users.*
Where Do You Start?

Register for one of our training courses to learn more about accreditation and its requirements as related to the cannabis industry.
www.A2LA.org/training

Request an estimate to see how affordable A2LA accreditation is.
www.A2LA.org/estimate

Talk to one of our on-staff experts.
301.644.3248

Visit our website to learn more about our qualifications and customer testimonials.
www.A2LA.org/cannabis