CALIFORNIA CANNABIS: A LAB PERSPECTIVE

JUNE 27TH, 2019
Aaron Riley
• Founded in 2011

• First ISO accredited cannabis lab in the world

• Testing approximately 1/3 of California’s regulated market (per BCC reports)

• Americans for Safe Access (ASA) 2019 Business Advocate of the Year
FINDINGS

• Due to BCC regulations, cannabis products have become progressively safer.

• Legal growers and distributors are learning safer and more efficient practices.

• Testing requirements have limited recalls in the legal market.

• Year to date fail rates (per the BCC) are 9.24%
INDUSTRIAL HEMP

• Industrial hemp products currently do not meet California safety standards for cannabis derived CBD.

• Consumers do not know what they are consuming.

• Allowing industrial hemp products to be sold in licensed dispensaries will ensure products are tested to the requirements of MAUCRSA.

• The regulation and standardization of industrial hemp will ensure a safer and more accurate product.

• Nevada and Oregon have passed legislation to require industrial hemp to be tested to cannabis standards.
QUALITY STANDARDIZATION

- Ensuring accreditation for all tests and traceability
- Integration of LIMS
- FDA Elemental Analysis Manual 4.7.6: “A single element’s QC fail does not automatically fail other elements”
- Introduction of stability testing (All food and food supplements require shelf life labeling)
- Standardization of quality control rather than methods
The regulated market suffers from black and gray market activity.

- Only 1/8 of the California market is estimated to be compliant.
- Lack of track-and-trace access does not hold businesses accountable; there is no way to cross-reference batch numbers.
- A push for enforcement of black and gray market levels
- Lowering cultivation taxes will encourage entities to join the legal market.
SAMPLING CHALLENGES

• Clarification of product final form definition

• Reducing unnecessary packaging requirements to reduce waste

• Standardization of product definition, packaging, and testing between the CDPH, CDFA, and the BCC