



Medical Marijuana Product Compliance Rule Stakeholder Meeting Comments

The Department of Health held stakeholder meetings in October 2015 to receive input from those interested in our rules regarding the Medical Marijuana Product Compliance required under SSB 5052. Below are a summary of the comments organized by topic area.

1. Product compliance requirements:

- There are products missing for high THC - most patients use syringes so we are missing lotions, bath salts, and other products. Concerned about ratios - 100 mg is not going to cut it for vaping oils, 500 dosage is what they use now. Our vape pen allows for a managed dose. We use a 5 to 1 ratio and our patients like it. Not many products with 25 to 1. These ratios require a lot of extra work to create them. The process kills other things in the profile that you want to keep. You will lose all terpenes in the product. We want to provide a full profile. More production will eliminate the entourage effect (more effective as a whole plant than single compounds).
- Would like to see what the dosage methods were. I don't know about set limits for CBD or THC.
- Cannabis has allowed my child who is a patient to progress. Because of the economics involved I have to grow at home. 25 to 1 ratio in concentrates – this pushes the envelope a bit too much (go with 20 to 1 so producers meet the requirement). Can consistently get 23 to 1 in my garage and 5 to 1 is very possible. Get a 5 to 1 for edibles. We may be setting a floor and people won't make them. Every morning he would have to take many pills and I don't want him to get high.
- I grow my own cannabis and make bubble hash and rosin. I make high quality products. What I produce won't meet the new rules. With use of water, I can't sterilize it. I could use a UV light but it won't pass the test. We try to get a 50-50. I will have to use micrograms.
- Regulating is hard to do because patients' needs are very different. Need to allow for full spectrum medicine but control how things are grown. Need different options like edibles, tinctures, etc.
- You have to go through some things to meet the grade. Concern about how much must occur between now and July 1, 2016.
- Need to understand the plants application and know how it works pharmaceutically.
- We use doses larger than what we have in our rulemaking. Should we deny patients access? The 25 to 1 ratio is hard to create. A 2 to 1 ratio would be still high CBD. US does not do enough research in this area. I know THC heals. I can't prove it to you but I know it in my heart. Please join us in the conversation.
- Dosing size is a big concern. The current THC 10 mg dose is not enough. They will have to take a lot of pills to get what they need. The ratios are also a concern. What we sell the most of is a 25 to 1 which barely meets our rules.
- Need to look at solvent free definition in our rules. Want products high in terpenes available.
- Limiting genetics concerns me.

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2. Quality assurance testing:

- Few labs can meet these requirements. Concerned about post production testing for edibles especially. Would want more testing done for them post production. Come up with a consistent sample size for testing across the different categories. Appreciate DOH getting these standards out quickly.
- Question about pesticide testing. Can't test for all pesticides but with lawsuits like the one in Colorado with things found to be toxic. The stores in CO had to get rid of all their products.
- Concern about even allowable pesticides being used.
- Feelings that these standards should extend to all products.
- Section 5b of the testing. Terpenes – I urge you to consider unintended consequences of this. This language is at odds with federal food and drug regulations. This is already in place with the LCB rules. Simply rely on food and drug laws for artificial terpenes. Restricting the source of the terpenes is not a good idea. Consider artificial ones. Synthetics look the same during testing. The rule would be impossible to enforce. Create consistent rules. This creates unintended legal and enforcement problems.
- For quality assurance testing, we need to test for other things – foreign matter, etc. I would like to see incentives for those that go the extra mile with testing.
- Concern with the pesticide screening.
- The concentration definition on THC. We need to look at CBD total. Provides a loophole for people who are getting around testing by cherry picking and altering samples. Need to assess how sampling and testing is taking place. Need a 3rd party to get the sample and take it to the lab.
- I would like to see more regulation for the testing labs. There is gaming of the system and inconsistency across labs. Would like to see ring testing implemented in the lab or adding more testing won't help. Patients will get false information.
- In favor of heavy metal testing. Protocols for getting samples for testing – some fraud in the system. Require video recording for getting samples.
- There are certain things allowed (pesticides) but you always run the risk of having a trace show up. The risk of having your whole batch destroyed is going to scare the producers a lot. It is going to be really hard to meet all the requirements for testing.
- Concerned about testing for pesticides. Patients won't want to smoke things with pesticides in it.
- Instead of reducing lot testing size we should look at closing loopholes in testing. Terpene testing – we need to define a terpene. Dr. Rouso – entourage effect. Increase testing for terpene. This is a good step but not far enough.
- Need to standardize the testing process. Labs vary in their reports, such as different THC numbers.
- Need more on genetics to get right ratios to producers.



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3. Compliant product labeling:

- Clean packaging should be required. Show pictures of what the facility looks like where the product is made.
- I want clear labels to find products I can buy, so I don't have to do this at home.

4. Compliant product safe handling:

- For safe handling, are they cleaning equipment and using devices to not breathe in chemicals? Know the toxicity level of the pesticides, cleaning supplies, etc.

5. Employee training requirements:

- Know how to store and dispose of safely. Look to answers from master gardening programs.
- See a lack of public education. People going into rec stores don't know what to ask for. They are putting their health at risk. Need training for industry and customers.
- Need more employee training for each retail establishment (not just the endorsed ones).

6. Other:

- **Costs/Affordability:**
 - Want to be able to provide to patients with lower income.
 - Hope the retail stores do not mark up the products too much.
 - Affordability for patients should be considered.
 - Concern that testing will drive up cost. Increase the price per gram.
 - Feel testing standards are unfair because of high price tag - small growers can't afford.
 - Serious upgrades for some products/processes to meet the new standards.
 - Growers have to be able to make a profit. Patients have to be able to afford it. Regulatory system must support the industry. Must ensure rules do not hurt smaller growers.
 - Concerned about the costs of the tests.
 - 3 lbs. lot is cost prohibited for pesticide testing. 1 test per strain per harvest would be better.
 - We know that cannabis heals. I might have to apply for disability because I won't be able to afford the medication anymore. I want to contribute to society and have not had to apply for disability. I cannot afford this. Please allow me to still help people. Edibles issue – we should allow them. We can do this safely.
 - Price control for patients.
 - Reduce costs for products/processes who are trying to grow both products.



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- **Organic:**

- Is any of this going to be organic?
- Should WSDA Organic team be involved?
- I am interested in seeing organic vs. inorganic products. Also what is grown in artificial vs. real sun light.
- We should pursue organic. We need legislation to do that for the WSDA.
- Need to look at organic. DOH should ask Leg to have WSDA create organic for MJ in WA.
- Need organic standards.
- WSDA should provide an organic certification.
- Right now I can support myself with what I can produce. No one carries what I need currently. I know my product is organic. We need to ensure the products work. Beware of sugar and chemical levels.