

# Ecology's Laboratory Accreditation Authority

Jessica Archer



# WAC 173-50

Establishes the State Program for implementing  
the WA State Environmental Laboratory  
Accreditation Program

# Who must be accredited?

- Analysis performed to meet Ecology's regulatory requirements must be done at an accredited laboratory.
- This includes:
  - All compliance work for NPDES permits (CWA)
  - All hazardous substances analyses (MTCA)



# Ecology's Accreditation Authority



- Provides initial and continuing accreditation
- Accredits to the parameter
- Sets fees
- Ecology grants, revokes, or suspends accreditation



# What is accreditation?

- Accreditation is the formal recognition that a laboratory has the technical competence and the systems in place to perform an identified scope of work, defined by regulation, and is therefore capable of producing accurate and defensible analytical data.



# Accreditation is...

- an evaluation of a laboratory's:
  - Quality system
  - Staff
  - Facilities and equipment
  - Test methods
  - Record keeping
  - Reports



# Accreditation is...

- Performed by independent entities. These entities must be:
  - Separate from the laboratories they accredit
  - Separate from those who establish, set, or authorize the quality standards and methodologies.



# Accreditation Does Not...

- Prescribe particular procedures, methods or performance criteria.



# Accreditation Does Not...

- Eliminate the “human factor.” – it’s doesn’t provide a guarantee that there isn’t inadvertent error or intentional fraud.
- Substitute for lack of adequate enforcement.
- Solve issues around improper sampling procedures.



# Accreditation Standards

- Criteria to evaluate a laboratory's capability to provide accurate and defensible data:
  - Can the lab implement the method and SOPs?
  - Is there adequate quality control?
  - Does the lab pass proficiency testing?
  - Does the lab meet previously established laboratory quality standards?





### **Product Standards**

define acceptable product content



### **Laboratory Quality Standards**

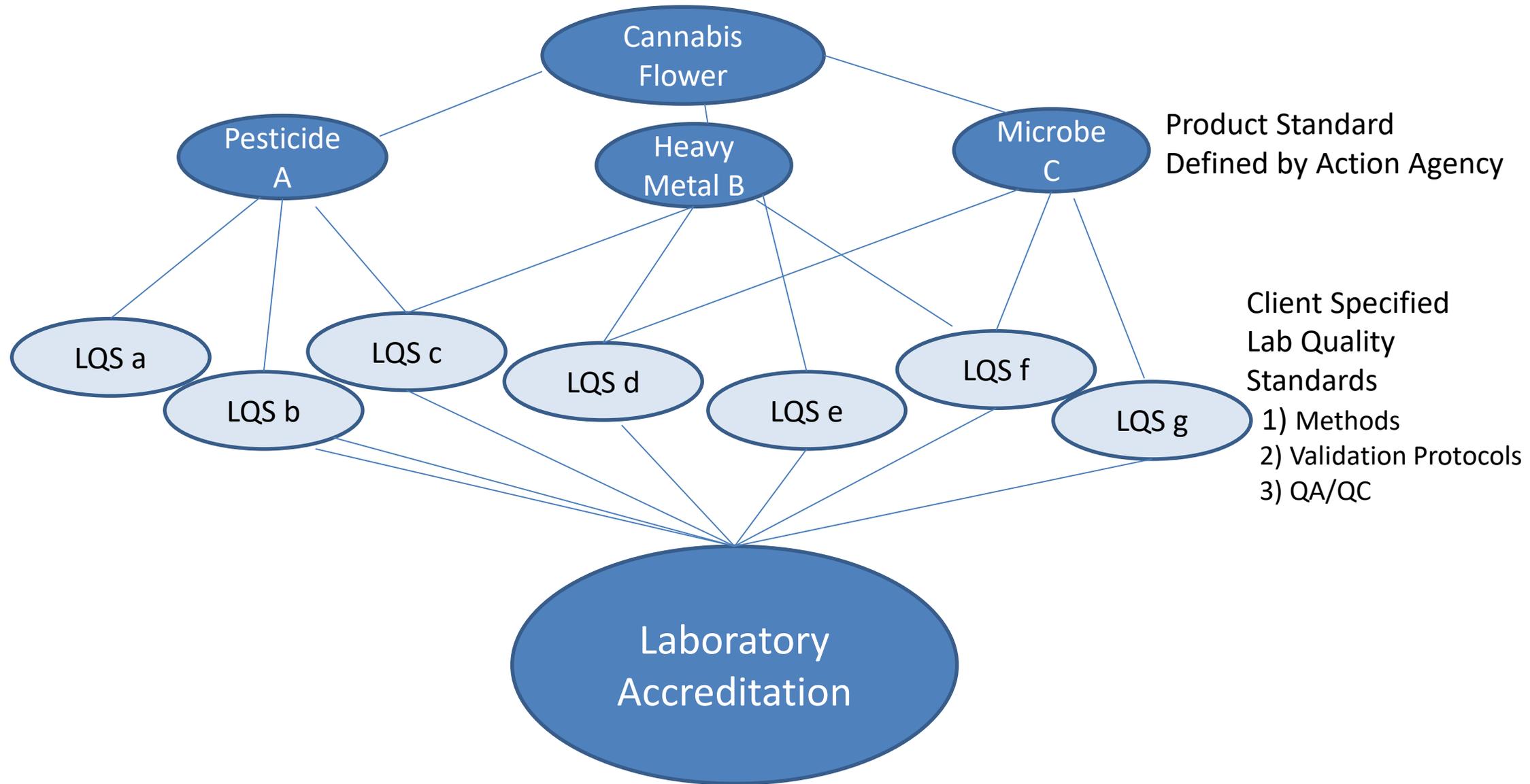
test whether products meet the product standards



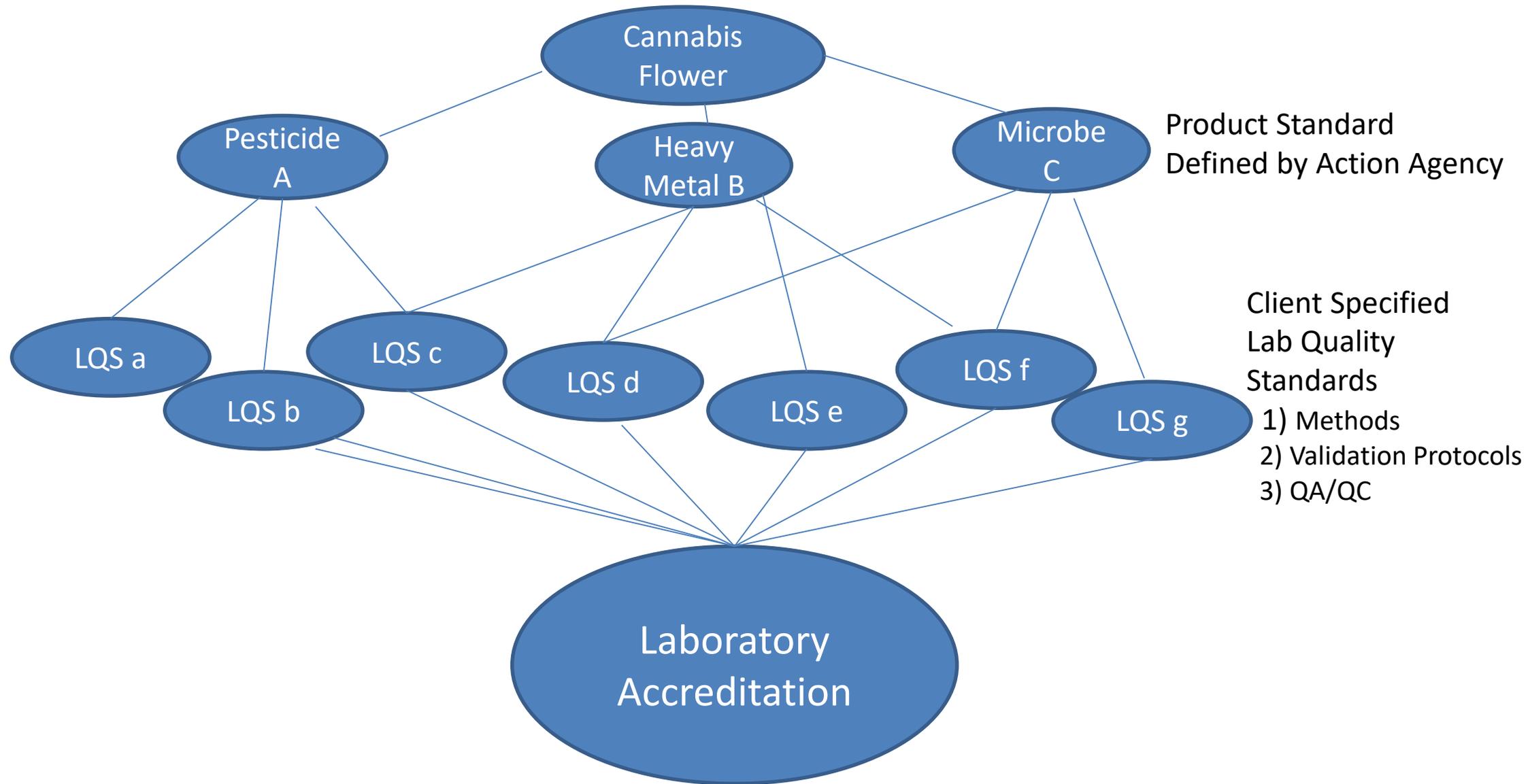
### **Accreditation Standards**

assess a lab's ability to meet laboratory quality standards





## FLOWER EXAMPLE



## FLOWER EXAMPLE



Questions?