Cannabis Science Task Force: Metals Analytical Work Group Update

Date: 9/14/2020

Metals AWG meeting:
September 2nd from 1-4pm
CSTF (Cannabis Science Task Force) Metals Workgroup Members:

- Sara Sekerak, Dept. of Ecology (DOE)-CSTF Lead Chemist
- Ryan Zboralski-Proxy for Sara Sekerak
- Caroline West, Dept. of Health (DOH)-Metals Workgroup Lead & Facilitator
- Nicholas Poolman, Liquor and Cannabis Board (WLSCB)
- Mike Firman, Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA)
- Tania Sasaki, Confidence Analytics
- Srinivasa Reddy Mallampati, Medicine Creek Analytics
- Curtis Deer, Institute of Food Safety and Defense
- Tim McCall, Dragon Analytical Laboratory

CSTF Workgroups (Metals, Potency, PT, etc.) Support Staff:

- Anastacia Green, Dept. of Ecology (DOE)-CSTF Secretary Senior
Meeting Update: General Topics

Topics Discussed

- 1. Review of previous meeting discussion of Performance vs Prescriptive continued with more emphasis on what each really means & what a hybrid approach may look like
- 2. Starting reviewing EPA 3052 digestion protocol which allows for changes in microwave digestion techniques.
  - To make “more hybrid” could add that other digestion techniques are also acceptable, such as hot block digestions, etc.

Responses to Topics

- 1. Decided on a Prescriptive Hybrid Approach: All present voted to adopt; however, since Sara was absent will discuss once more before bringing as a motion
- 2. Decided this was a good document since it typical of this type of hybrid approach: sect. 7.3.6 even says “this method is a performance based method, designed to achieve or approach total decomposition of sample through achieving specific reaction conditions”
Meeting Update: Specific Thoughts

Prescriptive Hybrid Concept

- Can add alternative pathways to the prescriptive method giving additional options with performance based criteria guidelines

- Starting with a pre-established prescriptive method like an EPA or FDA will help save a lot of work for us as they have pre-established linked protocols, such as Sample Storage requirements, Sample Collection, QC requirements, etc.

Thoughts to support Concept

- EPA 3052 does this somewhat already & we just need to add cannabis as a validated analyte*

- Would need to show the digestion technique or parameters used & validate the method(s) per matrix

- Many other protocols, not just testing protocols to consider. If we find a hybrid approach w/a complete set of SOPs to go off of we can then pair it with criteria
Other Topics Discussed & Next Steps

- We discussed AOAC Standard Method Performance Requirements, ISO requirements, and LAU requirements for accreditation and performance criteria comparing and contrasting these concepts.
- We will hopefully finish reviewing EPA 3052 Microwave Assisted Digestion & start reviewing EPA 3050 Hot Block Digestion then move onto EPA 6020 ICPMS, etc.
- We plan to continue our Hybrid approach discussions and come up with an official motion for the next Steering Committee meeting.

QUESTIONS??