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Public Service Announcement: Marijuana Testing Inconsistencies

January 2, 2018 ANCHORAGE – The Marijuana Control Board and the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) have learned that state-licensed marijuana testing facilities have reported results that appear to be inconsistent and may be inaccurate.

Alaska's marijuana laws require that all marijuana and marijuana products offered for sale in licensed stores be tested by state-licensed testing facilities. Testing facilities are required to test marijuana bud, flower, concentrates, and products for potency of THC, THCA, CBD, CBDA, and CBN cannabinoids. Marijuana products are limited to 5 mg THC per serving. There can be no more than 10 servings in a single packaged unit. The distribution of marijuana in edible products must be even throughout each serving. In addition, marijuana flower, products, and water and food-based concentrates must be tested for bacteria and mold. The Marijuana Control Board closely monitors these test results to ensure public health and safety.

Recently, the board has been made aware of inconsistencies in test results. In one case, the two licensed testing facilities reported significantly different levels of THC from samples of the same edible product. In another case, one testing facility found a potentially dangerous mold on a product but the other testing facility failed to detect it.

AMCO is vigorously investigating these inconsistencies and has already initiated actions to identify and correct the processes or deficiencies that have resulted in these reporting inconsistencies. In the meantime, all consumers of marijuana and marijuana products are urged to exercise care and good sense in choosing and consuming marijuana. Inspect the products you purchase. Limit consumption to the appropriate serving size. Read and heed the warnings that are on every package. Your welfare is our highest priority.

The mission of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office is to enforce alcohol and marijuana commerce laws and provide clear, consistent standards for licensure to protect the public from harm. For additional information about the agency, visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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