

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce,
Community & Economic Development



Mike Navarre
Commissioner

Abigail Enghirst 907.269.8159
Special Assistant abigail.enghirst@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 17-026

Contact: Erika McConnell
Director, Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office
(907) 269-0350
erika.mcconnell@alaska.gov

Marijuana Control Board Establishes Testing Working Group

November 30, 2017 ANCHORAGE – At their board meeting earlier this month, the Marijuana Control Board established a working group to address various testing concerns that have been raised by the industry, consider regulatory issues brought forward by staff, and do a comprehensive evaluation of the marijuana testing regulations in Alaska Administrative Code chapter 3, article 6.

“After a year and a half of implementation, it is time to take a comprehensive look at what’s working and what isn’t in the testing regulations to ensure that consumers are getting accurate information,” said Brandon Emmett, the board member who will chair the working group. Mr. Emmett went on to say, “Testing is the foundation of the marijuana industry. Thorough testing regulations give consumers confidence in the system and the products they purchase.”

Invitations to participate in the working group will be sent to:

- Testing labs
- Representatives from cultivation, manufacturing, and retail licensees
- Department of Health and Social Services staff, including the public health lab
- Department of Environmental Conservation staff, including the department’s lab
- Department of Public Safety crime lab staff
- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry representative

Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office staff will also participate in the working group.

“Because protecting public safety, health, and welfare is one of our agency’s goals, we value this opportunity to have experts work together through some of the testing issues that have arisen,” said Erika McConnell, director of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office. “The working group will provide important information for the Marijuana Control Board to consider.”

The working group will provide a report with recommendations to the Marijuana Control Board, likely in the summer of 2018. The working group will discuss a variety of testing issues, including:

- Standardization of sample preparation methodology
- Sample selection
- Amount of product to be tested

- Proficiency testing
- Required tests for various products

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.

###