Patient Focused Certification, PFC, is an innovative new program that is calibrating the medical cannabis industry for excellence. Comprehensive and flexible, PFC is what patients, healthcare providers, companies, & regulators can depend on to identify reliable, high-quality medical cannabis products and services.

Americans for Safe Access has created PFC to address standardized laboratory analysis as well as product and distribution safety in the medical cannabis industry. The program provides components for operators, legislators & regulators to promote the adoption of safe & reasonable industry standards and regulations from seed to consumption.

PFC is a third-party certification program for the medical cannabis industry based on the new quality standards for medical cannabis products and businesses issued by the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP) Cannabis monograph & therapeutic compendium. PFC certification & professional training is available nationwide.

For more information visit: PatientFocusedCertification.org or Contact the PFC Program Director, Kristin Nevedal Kristin@safeaccessnow.org

Is Your Company Ready for State Regulations? Let PFC help you avoid costly mistakes & protect your business!

WHY COMPLIANCE MATTERS

With medical cannabis regulations inevitable in CA, PFC certification provides your company with a record of ongoing compliance providing future regulators with credible evidence of your company’s integrity in an unregulated marketplace.

Mistakes and oversights can cause you to lose your local medical marijuana license, and in some cases, disqualify you under forthcoming state regulations.

Fixing compliance problems can be costly and time-consuming. Using ASA’s Patient Focused Certification program boosts your credibility with customers, regulators, and law enforcement.

State lawmakers are looking at recommendations for state wide licensing and regulations based on PFC standards.

PFC certification puts you ahead of the curve in state licensing and regulations – and ahead of competitors.

State and local medical marijuana regulations are constantly changing, and you need an expert to help save you time and bureaucratic headaches.
The PFC seal of approval displayed by medical cannabis businesses and products provides medical practitioners, patients and regulators with peace of mind that the organization is adhering to regulatory guidelines, committed to the purity and identity of products being sold, and has implemented product safety protocols for the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and lab testing of those products. That is a regulatory and competitive advantage you cannot afford to pass up.

**COMMON REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

**Operational Best Practices:**
PFC provides an independent certification program for distribution centers, cultivators, manufacturers and laboratories that includes regular audits, ensuring ongoing compliance with all applicable local and state regulations. PFC organizations are required to adhere to guidelines that provide a system of processes, procedures, and documentation to ensure that hemp, medical cannabis, and cannabis-derived products have the strength, composition, purity, and identity they represent to possess and that the companies cultivating, manufacturing, and distributing these products are committed to quality and product safety based on the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) cannabis industry best practices. This will matter to local and state regulators – and to patients in an increasingly competitive environment.

**Staff Training:**
PFC training courses and ensure that your company’s staff is proficient in understanding local, state and federal law; Cannabis as Medicine; and Cannabis Business Operations. You can be sure your staff is ready to help members and grow your organization.

**Patient Education:**
ASA offers a variety of educational materials that your cooperative, collective, or business can use to meet the patient education needs, including legal guides for patients, condition-specific booklets, guides to using medical cannabis as a medicine, and brochures on laws and regulations as well as instructional videos for patients.

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**Batch and Lot Number Tracking:**
Through the proper use of batch and lot number tracking PFC organizations can successfully track the origins of the hemp and/or cannabis used in the products provided. While such tracking is necessary for product safety recall strategies, batch and lot number tracking also allows the consumer to know how the hemp, medical cannabis, or cannabis-derived product of choice was produced, processed, and handled during preparation.

**Recall Strategy:**
All PFC organizations implement a product recall strategy plan. Modelled after recall strategies implemented by regulators for other products that are produced for human consumption, PFC companies use a combination of lot and batch number tracking, adverse event reporting, and proper labelling to ensure that the hemp, medical cannabis, and medical cannabis products provided can easily be recalled from the market place should the need arise.

**Proper Labelling:**
PFC organizations adhere to strict labelling protocols that provide the consumer with the proper identity of the hemp and/or cannabis contained within the product as well the associated batch and lot number(s), nutritional facts, portion of the plant used, and possible allergens contained in the product.

**Product Testing**
PFC can help your organization incorporate lab testing procedures into your operations – something that will soon be required under state law. Furthermore, PFC laboratory testing facilities are audited to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable local and state regulations as well as guidelines as set forth by the American Herbal Products Association and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia. Laboratory analysis facilities participating in the PFC program have each successfully calibrated their equipment and implemented protocols in accordance with the AHP Monograph and Therapeutic Compendium for Cannabis, establishing the first standardized testing of hemp, medical cannabis and medical cannabis products.