



U.S. Hemp Authority®

Summary of Changes from Standard v3.0 to v4.0

Background

The U.S. Hemp Authority® Standard, through its Certification Program and seal aims to assure all interested parties with production practices meet legal requirements for quality of hemp and hemp-derived ingredients and products, that ingredients and products are handled to maintain product integrity and are labeled to represent their contents truthfully and clearly. Certified operators are held accountable for demonstrating compliance with all applicable requirements of the Standard, including providing for adequate worker training and safety, and documentation of practices to verify product quality, authenticity, and traceability.

Over the past few years, thousands of industry experts have answered the U.S. Hemp Authority's calls to help develop industry standards in what they have termed Guidance Plan 1.0, Guidance 2.0, Standard 3.0, and the latest, Standard 4.0 – previous iterations demonstrate the industry's professionalism and promote confidence among consumers that hemp products can be trusted, and among government officials that hemp products meet clear standards. Once again, the U.S. Hemp Authority® is called on the hemp industry – farmers, manufacturers, brand owners, retailers and consumers – to weigh in on how they could make the Standard even stronger, and how they could make the U.S. Hemp Authority® Certification Seal an even prouder symbol of confidence, trust, truth in labeling, and transparency of process.

Enforcement Timeline

Version 4.0 goes into force immediately for all new applicants to the US Hemp Authority certification program. Entities already certified will have until their 2023 annual certification inspection to demonstrate full compliance with any changes they need to make between versions 3.0 and 4.0.

Summary of Changes

Version 4.0 does not represent a substantial change from the previous version 3.0 which has been operating effectively over the past year. However, there are some key changes that deserve public attention and input:

- Most prominently, the definitions provided in the Standard's glossary were completely overhauled to reflect the greater understanding of the science and policy behind the hemp plant and hemp products. Of note, other organizations and state regulators have been looking to U.S. Hemp Authority's definitions for their guidance, so public attention is critical to ensure that they are sound and accurate.
- With the rise of intoxicating products being marketed as hemp, such as Delta-8 THC, sections outlining the prohibitions on intoxicating compounds being certified by U.S. Hemp Authority were strengthened in 4.0.
- Given that many different certification bodies may in the short and long term be involved with the program, we deleted mention of any particular firm or company,
- The category that was originally labeled "Manufacturer/Processor" has been renamed "Manufacturer" to provide more clarity and precision.

Further inquiries about the Standard's development process may be directed to
info@ushempauthority.org.



U.S. Hemp Authority®
Standard Version 4.0 Development Process
Summary

During the public comment period on the draft for version 4.0 of U.S. Hemp Authority Standard, The Technical Committee received a total of 8 written comments following a notice of public comment to consumers, brand owners, processor/manufacturers, growers, certification bodies, retailers, and industry advocates, which are summarized as follows:

Comments that did not warrant or result in changes to the draft:

- Most comments were simply supportive of the draft and encouraging of the U.S. Hemp Authority's efforts without offering further critique.
- A few comments were received criticizing or objecting to federal and/or state regulations where stakeholders felt that certain restrictions such as intoxicating products, limits on THC content, restrictions on growing and pre-harvest crop testing, and other regulatory issues are too strict or onerous. It is beyond the U.S. Hemp Authority's purview to override such regulations; legal compliance is embedded in the U.S. Hemp Authority Standard. The U.S. Hemp Authority interfaces with legal advocacy groups such as the U.S. Hemp Roundtable and other organizations interested in the evolution of the hemp sector to participate in the ongoing public-private dialogue on hemp-related regulations.

Change made to the draft based on stakeholder comments:

- One comment requested an edit to the list of intoxicating cannabinoids to correctly reference HHC instead of HCH.

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