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Determination of Heavy Metals in Cannabis and Derived Products Using the New AOAC Method

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Abstract: Current U.S. states that permit Cannabis use require rigorous testing to ensure safety from inorganic impurities, such as toxic metals. In this talk, we will cover our new AOAC metals in the Cannabis method for the testing of the big four elements: Cadmium, Arsenic, Lead, and Mercury, and additional elements; Aluminum, Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Calcium, Chromium, Cobalt, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Molybdenum, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Thallium, Thorium, Uranium, Vanadium, and Zinc. Many of these elements are crucial to study because they play an important role in the growth of the plant and plant byproducts. They can also be an unwanted consequence of the manufacturing and processing of the plants. We looked at a variety of products, covering categories of Inhaled (Plant material, Vape Pen/cartridges, and Shatter), Oral (Pill, Tincture, and Edibles), Topical (Lotions, Oils, and Soaps), and Manufacturing (Biomass, Crude Extract, and Refined Extract).