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Understanding quality assurance infrastructure and checkpoints necessary within manufacturing and agricultural practices to reduce microbial bioburden and produce safe, high-quality products

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Abstract: Microbial contaminants found on cannabis plants and products can pose a significant risk to yields, worker wellness, and consumer health. As the cannabis industry matures and we advance in our cultivation knowledge, focus is shifting away from simply passing compliance testing onto establishing methods to produce disease-free cannabis and control the spread of recognized contamination within standard operating procedures. To best maximize both time and treasure, we must address the underlying reservoirs of microbial contamination in the cultivation or post-harvest processes. This presentation will share cumulative information on common root causes of contamination. Attendees will also gain an understanding of the quality assurance infrastructure and checkpoints that must be put in place within the manufacturing and agricultural practices to reduce microbial bioburden and produce safe, high-quality cannabis flower products.

Additionally, several methods, including ozone decontamination, have been developed to kill harmful pathogens on cannabis flower products in order to pass compliance testing and avoid the many burdens these microorganisms pose. Ozone is a safe, organic, and clean way to ensure final product is on its way to becoming a successful sale with the goal of creating a safe product for consumers while keeping the medicinal properties of the plant intact. This session will give the audience a comprehensive overview of decontamination options to control microbial contaminants that can adversely affect harvests and consumers with the goal of growing healthier plants, with a lower bioburden on the end product, allowing for a gentle kill step as a preventative measure.