

Purpose:

This document outlines COLA's expectations pertaining to the use of COLA's ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation Seal and requirements for referring to a cannabis laboratory's accreditation status. This document is made available to interested parties.

Overview

COLA, as an Accreditation Body (AB), in its purview, aligns with ISO/IEC 17011:2017 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* and ISO/IEC 17021:2015 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems* related to the Use of Accreditation Symbols and the requirements governing Claims of Accreditation Status. Laboratories who achieve accreditation by demonstrating conformity to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard have achieved the recognition and benefit of using COLA's Accreditation Seal.

To protect the integrity of the Seal as a demonstration of competence, impartiality and consistent operations of your laboratory, COLA insists that customers, who have earned the right to use the COLA Seal, are informed and strictly abide by the terms of general use outlined in this document. Making ambiguous, false or misleading claims about the scope of accreditation covered by the Seal is entirely unacceptable, goes against COLA policy, and may result in withdrawing accreditation. If you have questions or are unclear about any of the requirements below, you may contact COLA for additional guidance.

General Use of the Accreditation Seal

Cannabis testing laboratories awarded COLA accreditation (*after demonstrating full conformity to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard*) are permitted to use the COLA Seal and refer to COLA accreditation in communications media in accordance with the following requirements:

- Limits use of Seal and claims of accreditation status **to the specific activities covered by the scope of accreditation.**
- Prohibits the Seal to be applied to laboratory test reports.
- Accreditation claims and use of the COLA Seal must include a clear indication that the accreditation is related to demonstrating conformity to the **ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard.**
- Does not refer to the status of accreditation or use the COLA Seal in any way that would imply that COLA endorses or has approved a specific product, process, service, management system, test result(s) or person.
- The COLA Seal cannot be used by your legal entity on company materials, which are unrelated to the scope of accreditation for which the use of the COLA Seal was awarded. In cases where the

COLA Seal or claim is being used, the materials must clearly define what is accredited and non-accredited work.

- Agrees to discontinue use of the reference and COLA Seal upon withdrawal of accreditation or upon request by COLA.
- Agrees to inform affected customers of any suspension, reduction or withdrawal of its accreditation status and the associated consequences without undue delay.
- When the results of subcontracted work are included on any standard report, which also includes the COLA Seal or claim of accreditation status, the accredited laboratory takes full responsibility for the subcontracted work, including gaining permission to include any results from the subcontracted work. If the subcontractor is not COLA accredited nor accredited by another accrediting organization participating in the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperative (ILAC), it shall be clearly indicated that those results are not accredited.
- Whenever opinions of interpretations are included in the test result which are the opinions or interpretations by persons who performed work independent of the accredited laboratory, disclaimers shall be used to indicate that the expert opinion or interpretation is outside of the scope of accreditation.

Claims of COLA accreditation status shall be made by the name or registered trade name of the legal entity, which holds COLA accreditation as shown on your scope of accreditation.

COLA Seal Misuse Guidelines (Do not):

1. Alter the COLA Seal in any way, (including, but not limited to adding elements to or covering part of the seal with other elements, color changes, stretching or skewing, flipping, separating into parts or altering any part of the Seal).
2. Redesign, redraw, animate, modify, distort, or alter the proportions of the Seal.
3. Surround the Seal with—or place in the foreground over—a pattern or design.
4. Rotate or render the Seal three-dimensionally.
5. Add words, images, or any other new elements to the Seal.
6. Replace the approved Seal font or attempt to recreate the Seal.
7. Enclose the Seal in a shape or combine it with other design elements or effects.
8. Modify the size or position relationship of any element within the Seal.
9. Add additional copy to the Seal.
10. Use colors other than the approved palette in the Seal.

COLA will take proper action to ensure that cannabis testing laboratories correct any false or unauthorized claims of accreditation status, or misleading or unauthorized use of the COLA Seal.



ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Policy on Claims of Accreditation & Use of Accreditation Seal

Proper action would begin with a written request to correct the unauthorized claim within a defined period; however, failure to correct the issue could result in suspension, withdrawal of accreditation or legal action.

Key Reference:

ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

ISO 17021: Conformity assessment – requirements for bodies providing audit and certification management systems.

Records:

Record ID	Custodian	Where Stored	Retention Period
Log of actions taken for misuse of Seal or inappropriate claim	Legal Counsel	Cannabis Laboratory Platform	10 years after termination of relationship

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