



MOFGA's **MC3** Certified Clean Cannabis Program



MOFGA Certification Services, LLC (MCS)

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The MOFGA Certified Clean Cannabis Program is a voluntary marketing label designed to ensure patient confidence in your growing practices. To comply, all aspects of your operation pertaining to our standards must be verifiable through an audit process. This audit process consists of an MC3 system plan, review of plan, record keeping analysis, on-site inspection, and finally a certification decision. This process occurs on an annual basis.

Steps to MC3 Certification

- 1 Contact MCS** to request an application packet (available after the first of the year). Read the MC3 Cannabis Standard for information on our requirements.
- 2 Complete the application packet** and submit fees. We will review your application and contact you if any information is missing or if we have questions. You will receive a confirmation letter when the review is complete.
- 3 Inspection.** An inspector will contact you to schedule an on-site visit. The inspector will observe your operation, examine your records, and send a written report back to MCS (you will receive a copy as well). If additional information is needed before a certification decision can be made, you will be given time to provide it.
- 4 MC3 Certification.** The MCS Director makes the final certification decision. The decision letter may include conditions for changes that you need to implement. When certification is granted we will issue you a copy of your certificate and at that point you are officially MC3 Certified and can market your products as such.
- 5 Continuing certification.** While your certificate does not expire, you are required to submit fees, update your MC3 system plan documents, and be inspected annually. You can surrender your certificate (in writing) at any time. Once surrendered, you can no longer market any of your cannabis products as MC3 certified.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How much does MC3 certification cost?

The annual certification fee is \$800. Applicants must also pay a one-time application fee of \$75. Payment plans are available upon request and will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Payment plans will only become valid with a starting payment of 25%.

When are the application deadlines?

The application period opens in February. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 30th. For producers renewing their MC3 Certification, updates will be sent individually in the Spring and will have a separate due date.

Is the MC3 program for caregivers only?

While the program is designed for Licensed Caregivers, our program remains open to all growers looking to attain verification of growing practices for marketing purposes.

What materials are allowed for use under the MC3 guidelines?

The approved materials list consists of what is currently approved or prohibited for MC3 compliance and is subject to change. If you have questions regarding inputs or other substances, please contact us before applying or using any product. The materials list can be requested from MCS and contains proprietary information and should not be shared outside of the program.

Is batch testing required?

No, but it is highly recommended for compliance to our standards and can help to ensure that cannabinoid profiles are consistent with expected results.

What is the role of MOFGA Certification Services (MCS)?

MCS guides producers through the MC3 process, keeps documentation of each client's system plan, and conducts annual reviews of client's operation. We are here to provide answers and support for our MC3 certified producers, and adhere to full confidentiality with all our clients. MCS provides a trusted third party verification and certification which allows you to market your product as "clean." It's as close to certified organic as you can get!

Market your products as certified clean by MOFGA, Maine's trusted third party certification service of agricultural products.



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How is MOFGA Certification Services (MCS) different from MOFGA?

MCS is a subsidiary of MOFGA and is a single member LLC (MOFGA is sole owner). MOFGA works to promote local, organic and sustainable agriculture.

Is the MC3 program the only cannabis certification option in Maine?

Yes, it currently is.

What if my farm or facility is not in Maine, can I still be certified through MCS and the MC3 program?

Unfortunately not. MCS operates the MC3 program through the laws governing cannabis production and sales within the state of Maine only.

How long does it take to become MC3 certified?

An application (including fees) must be complete and an onsite inspection conducted before certification can be granted. MCS strives to provide turnaround within a reasonable time frame, but because every operation is different, it is not possible to guarantee certification within a certain time frame. We advise submitting a complete application several months before you want to be certified.

What kind of records do I have to keep?

Record keeping is a regulatory requirement for medical cannabis caregivers and for MC3 certification. (Documentation should include harvest records, allowing for a mass balance and a trace back audit of materials used in production. Crop production logs and receipts for inputs are also required such as time of harvest and storage method.) Culls and seconds are discouraged, as the goal is HIGH QUALITY. Any culls or seconds must be recorded. Complete recordkeeping will include planting records, plant records, propagation records, pesticide application records, and harvest records.

How does the inspection process work?

Once your application has been reviewed, an inspector will be assigned. This person will contact you to set up a date and time for the visit. The inspector will observe your growing practices and check all records. The inspector will then send a report to MCS, at which point it will be reviewed in-house, and a review letter and copy of the report will then be sent to you.

How do I prepare for an inspection?

1. Review the MC3 Clean Cannabis Standard.
2. Review your certification paperwork.
3. Gather records that will be needed at the inspection.
4. Make arrangements for an authorized person with knowledge of the operation to be present at the time of the inspection.

Does the MC3 Program have a processing component?

MOFGA has developed processing standards and is hoping to open up MC3 certification for this additional scope in 2018. We have provided the processing standards under section 12 of our MC3 standards. Those looking to certify processed products will need to pay an additional scope fee of \$150, which covers the additional inspection time and review pieces, including label review. If you are interested, take the time to familiarize yourself with the standards in preparation for the larger rollout.

Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest

MOFGA Certified Clean Cannabis staff and contractors maintain strict confidentiality and are annually required to sign an agreement whereby they attest that they will not disclose any confidential information that they have access to in their official capacity to any person or organization and furthermore, that they will not use this information for personal gain.

MOFGA Certified Clean Cannabis staff and contractors annually disclose individuals and companies with whom they have a conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest include family and financial relationships. Staff and contractors with conflicts of interest that jeopardize neutrality must recuse themselves from decision-making with regard to certification.