

# GMP VS GACP

## WHAT CANNABIS OPERATORS NEED TO KNOW FOR 2026

As the global cannabis industry matures, regulators are raising the bar on compliance and safety. Two quality frameworks, **Good Agricultural & Collection Practices (GACP)** and **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)**, are at the center of this transformation. By 2026, operators who don't bridge the gap between GACP and GMP risk losing access to lucrative medical and international markets. Understanding these standards today is critical for positioning your business for long-term growth.

### WHAT CANNABIS OPERATORS SHOULD DO NOW

#### ☐ #1: ASSESS YOUR COMPLIANCE

Are you GACP-aligned? Do you have a roadmap to GMP?

#### ☐ #2: UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

GMP requires controlled environments, validated equipment, and cleanability. Explore Pipp's vertical racking systems and TRAK-FREE™ mobile carriages, both engineered with sanitation and facility design compliance in mind.

#### ☐ #3: DEVELOP ROBUST SOPS

Standardize every step from cultivation through packaging.

#### ☐ #4: TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Build a compliance culture where staff understand why GACP and GMP matter.

#### ☐ #5: PREPARE FOR AUDITS

Certification requires documentation, traceability, and readiness for third-party inspection.

#### Key Elements of GACP

- Proper soil, water, and nutrient management
- Pest and disease control with approved methods
- Worker hygiene and safety in cultivation areas
- Documented seed-to-harvest traceability
- Safe drying, storage, and transport practices

#### Key Elements of GMP

- Validated equipment and manufacturing processes
- Batch consistency and robust quality assurance testing
- Stringent sanitation and contamination controls
- Comprehensive SOPs and staff training
- Regulatory inspections and certification audits



# FAQs GMP VS GACP IN CANNABIS

**Still confused by GMP and GACP?** You're not alone. As the cannabis industry continues to evolve, understanding these critical compliance frameworks is essential for staying ahead. Check out our **frequently asked questions** for a break down of the key differences between the two, and why it's vital for operators to start preparing now for future regulatory requirements.

## Q1 "WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GACP AND GMP IN CANNABIS?"

GACP applies to cultivation and harvesting, whereas GMP applies to manufacturing and product processing.

## Q2 "IS GMP REQUIRED FOR CANNABIS IN THE UNITED STATES?"

Not yet federally, but states with medical programs increasingly require GMP for specific licenses. Federal legalization or rescheduling may introduce FDA GMP requirements.

## Q3 "WHY IS GMP IMPORTANT FOR CANNABIS EXPORTS?"

The EU and Canada only allow imports from GMP-certified facilities, making GMP essential for global trade.

## Q4 "CAN GACP ALONE QUALIFY CANNABIS FOR INTERNATIONAL SALES?"

No. GACP is foundational, but GMP certification is required for finished products in most international medical markets.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Prepare now. Those who bridge the gap between GACP and GMP today will lead tomorrow's cannabis industry.

## Want to Maximize Your Space?

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