

Case Study

Alkemist Labs

Continuous Improvement and Organizational Growth Through Accreditation



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[Alkemist Labs](#), located in Garden Grove, California, was founded more than 25 years ago as an independently owned contract laboratory. With just under 50 employees in 2023, this small laboratory plays a significant role in the botanical testing industry. Their talented team members are experts in plants, botanicals, fungus, and nutraceuticals, and test them to confirm their identity, potency, and purity, as well as for any possible contamination.

“We service a wide range of organizations, from two person companies to some of the largest biotech firms in the world,” said Elan Sudberg, CEO of Alkemist Labs. “We’re essentially David hanging out with a bunch of Goliaths.”

They test everything from green tea to determine how much caffeine it contains, to cannabis and psychedelic mushrooms to determine its identity and potency. They also test botanicals to ensure they do not contain more than the legal limit of heavy metals, pesticides, residual solvents, and other biological contaminants.

In addition, Alkemist Labs provides botanical reference materials. The materials are custom blends of verified botanicals from multiple sources, which allows for more robust identity testing than a single source.

Alkemist Labs' Accreditation Journey

Alkemist Labs has been accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 in the chemical field of testing with [A2LA](#) since 2015. They've also met the requirements of A2LA P112 Flexible Scope Policy and A2LA R204 - Specific Requirements - Food and Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program. Their scope includes test methods for dietary supplements, crude plant matter, plant extracts, oils, raw materials, finished products, fungal, algal species, and cannabis.

The organization began their accreditation journey when a colleague at [NSF](#), a trusted partner and ally, recommended they seek laboratory accreditation to differentiate themselves from competitors. Alkemist's lab director at the time had previously worked with A2LA at a former lab, and because of their positive experience, recommended the accreditation body.





“For us, A2LA has always been the gold standard of accrediting bodies,” said Elan. “Our assessors have always been rightfully strict, which has helped us to continuously improve. It really has been a joy to go through the process.”

The Value of Accreditation

Earning ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation has allowed Alkemist Labs to proudly stand out within their industry and gain credibility with their customers, stakeholders, and competitors.

“Accreditation is the best way to prove to clients that we have done what is required to have a robust quality system,” said Petra Erlandson, Director of Sales and Marketing at Alkemist Labs. “It puts our clients at ease and is a really important way that we distinguish ourselves.”

After achieving their initial accreditation in 2015, Alkemist Labs proudly shared the news with their existing customers and beyond through marketing and public relations efforts. Following the publicity, the organization was approached by new clients, including a large testing, inspection, and certification company. The owners were also approached by other labs and private equity firms looking to acquire the newly accredited lab.

“They’ve all failed to convince me to sell—and will continue to fail to convince me—because I love what we do here,” said Elan, “but, it did add credibility to our business from an investor standpoint and has attracted larger customers.”

The Future of the Industry

To position themselves as a leader in the industry, Alkemist Labs have worked to include methodologies on their scope of accreditation that include testing psychedelic compounds, including psilocybin, psilocin, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), ketamine, MDMA, and more. As the industry continues to rapidly change and many are opening their minds to the potential benefits of psychedelics, Alkemist Labs will be prepared to meet the niche needs of their future customers and remain one step ahead of their competition.

“We’re seeing it happening and we wanted to get ahead of the game,” said Elan. “It’s going to be awhile before anyone can actually sell products like these, but we have aspirations to join other industries when the time comes.”

In addition to their accreditation, Alkemist Labs is registered with the [Department of Drug Enforcement \(DEA\)](#) so they may lawfully test botanicals that are categorized as a

schedule I, II, III, or IV drug. While their accreditation and registration allow them to test scheduled substances, these methodologies are also used to test for the absence of these chemical compounds in other plants and fungus, as they may also be considered contaminants.

Elan adds, "Our A2LA accreditation helps us stand strong and proud in such a competitive arena and I'm excited to see what the future of the industry will look like."

To learn more about ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation in the chemical field of testing, visit our [Chemical Testing Accreditation](#) page.

Choose A2LA

Established in 1978, A2LA maintains a 97% retention rate among its customers, largely in part due to its knowledgeable customer service representatives and expert accreditation services staff. A team of customer care representatives is available during extended business hours to address any issues, and the leadership team consistently strives for improvement within the accreditation industry.

Start The Accreditation Process

Want to learn more about accreditation for your laboratory?

Scan the QR code for more information or to get started with an [Accreditation Estimate](#) today.

