



Study in support of the Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment

Contaminant analysis baseline report

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Summary

The aim of the “Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment” (*Experiment Gesloten Coffeeshopketen*, EGC) is to assess whether and how growers can supply decriminalized, quality-controlled cannabis to coffeeshops in 10 Dutch municipalities and what the associated effects are. Quality control is carried out by the growers, monitored by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). For the cannabis sold during the EGC, limits have been set for various possible contaminants: aflatoxins, heavy metals, micro-organisms and pesticides. To determine the situation regarding the presence of contaminants prior to the availability of legally grown cannabis, an exploratory baseline measurement was carried out – as commissioned by the Research and Data Centre (WODC). To this end, 105 cannabis samples (both resin/hashish and inflorescence/weed) were purchased in Dutch coffeeshops

and analyzed. The results were then compared with the limits set for the EGC. None of the cannabis samples had aflatoxin concentrations exceeding the limits. Microbiological transgressions were found on twenty percent of the purchased weed samples – the origin and health impact of this is difficult to determine. One hashish sample was found to contain too much lead. The health impact of the concentration that was found is probably limited, yet a reason to be alert to this form of contamination. Pesticides that are not permitted within the EGC were found in 34% of the hashish and weed samples. After quantitative analysis, possible exposures of the cannabis consumer to the detected pesticides were calculated. Based on currently available knowledge, it can be stated that exposure to pesticide residues as found in this study probably does not pose any additional health risks.