



The voice of the herbal products industry

Guidance on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices for Botanical Materials

Ensuring the continued availability of high-quality herbal ingredients in an increasingly complex global supply chain is a top priority for members of the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA). To help ensure that botanical raw materials used in consumer products are accurately identified, are free from contaminants that may present a public health risk, and fully conform to all quality characteristics for which they are represented, AHPA developed free industry guidance.

The guidance provides small and large-scale growers, harvesters, and processors with a flexible template to establish standard operating procedures for every level in the supply chain to ensure the production of high quality herbal raw materials. The guidance and accompanying assessment program currently being developed provide comprehensive best practices for every step that could impact the quality and cleanliness of herbal ingredients.

Several AHPA members are implementing the applicable portions of the guidance document relevant to their operations as part of the effort to develop a companion assessment program to evaluate conformity with the guidance. The assessment program tools will be available for all botanical operations to utilize.

Background:

Agricultural and collection practices have wide-ranging impacts on product quality, native and regional communities, and the environment and AHPA members have long supported the need for best practices to be clearly described and documented. This guidance is intended to complement the empirical knowledge that has been passed down from preceding generations involved in the cultivation, wild collection, and processing of useful plants. The document is an update to and extension of a similar document initially issued jointly in 2006 by AHPA and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia.

More information:

View and download this guidance:

<http://ahpa.org/News/LatestNews/tabid/96/ArtMID/1179/ArticleID/795/Default.aspx>