



**MANUFACTURER**

# **PROGRAMME**

# **OVERVIEW**

Providing Assurance to Supplement Manufacturing Facilities

Informed Manufacturer is a global quality assurance programme that minimises the risk of banned substance contamination within facilities that manufacture and supply dietary and sports nutrition products and ingredients.

Certification allows third-party manufacturers and suppliers to communicate to their customers - supplement brands - that their facility meets high quality control standards and has been assessed to minimise the risk of contamination with banned substances.

Cross contamination within a manufacturing facility is one of the leading causes of finished goods contamination, and products failing the Informed Choice or Informed Sport banned substance screen.

This certification provides assurance to your customers that products manufactured in your facility meet the highest quality standards and minimise the risk of contamination with substances banned in sport.

Using validated analytical methods, certified facilities are screened for banned substances to parts-per-billion levels of accuracy, using a robust swabbing and testing process. In addition, manufacturing sites must meet strict quality control standards, as defined by our Informed Manufacturer Global Standards.

## STAGE ONE

### Site Audit

A full review of the procedures in place at the facility is undertaken via a paper-based assessment. This process is managed by experienced LGC assessors, who provide guidance on how to meet the required standards of the programme and reduce risk within manufacturing processes.

## STAGE TWO

### Pre-Certification Assessment Visit and Swab Sample Testing

An Informed Manufacturer representative will visit to inspect the site and take swab samples from various critical control points for analysis. These swabs are tested at LGC for more than 285 prohibited substances using validated analytical methods. A written report will be provided detailing the outcome of the site audit and visit, including any associated recommendations and/or non-conformities.

## STAGE THREE

### Certification, Logo Use and Web Listing

Once the first two stages are complete and any resulting non-conformities have been closed out, the site will be accepted for certification with Informed Manufacturer. A certificate will be issued, after which time the site(s) may use the Informed Manufacturer logo. The site(s) will be provided with the Informed Manufacturer Brand Standards which explain how the logo may be used and how to market the new certification. Every certified site is listed on the Informed Manufacturer website with a profile of its facility and production capabilities.

## STAGE FOUR

### Recertification

Each year, a recertification audit will be performed which includes the collection and testing of facility swab samples and a desk-based audit of the site and manufacturing policies and procedures. This is a straightforward, yet robust auditing process, designed to ensure that sites maintain the high standards required to claim certification with Informed Manufacturer. Providing the sites remain in conformance to the programme requirements, a new certificate will be issued following completion of the swab testing and audit, and the listing on the Informed Manufacturer website will continue.

