

Off-cycle product call

Vaping products

Vape cartridges

For
responsible
consumption



OFF-CYCLE PRODUCT CALL

Vaping products: vape cartridges

The Société québécoise du cannabis presents its call for off-cycle products to select suppliers of vaping cartridges.

The following product call will be launched on March 31, 2025, and end on April 25, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Suppliers that would like to submit a product offer should complete all the documentation required using the submission form that will be provided for the purpose.

→ The link to the submission form will be sent to you when the product call is launched.

The SQDC will communicate its decision to bidding suppliers on July 4, 2025.

→ The submitted products should be ready for sale on November 1, 2025. The SQDC reserves the right to postpone the product call dates and the product start-of-sale date.

For any questions regarding this product call, please email our team at the following address: soumission_produits@sqdc.ca.

Compliance elements and desired features

Compliance with laws and regulations

The product and the producer are required to comply with all laws and regulations, including the ***Cannabis Act***, the ***Cannabis Regulations***, the ***Cannabis Regulation Act*** and the ***Regulation to determine other classes of cannabis that may be sold by the Société québécoise du cannabis and certain standards respecting the composition and characteristics of cannabis*** as well as the ***Regulation respecting the language of commerce and business***.

Product selection: vape cartridges

The SQDC always favours suppliers that have demonstrably implemented the highest quality-control, testing and procurement standards in order to ensure product quality and risk reduction and thereby assist the Société québécoise du cannabis in fulfilling its mission and providing a selection of lower-risk products with a focus on health protection.

Compliance elements and desired features

① Vaping liquid contained in the cartridge

1.1. The supplier shall provide the following information to the SQDC when submitting the product:

1.1.1. A detailed listing of all the ingredients contained in the vaping liquid and specifying the nature of the extract contained in the vaping liquid (before all the ingredients are added – for example: distillate, fresh resin, CO₂-extracted resin, rosin, etc.).

1.1.2. Declare any allergens present in the product, if applicable.

1.1.3. Declare the presence of any compounds in the vaping liquid – for example: triacetin, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, all added terpenes, any other diluent.

For each of the products present other than the cannabis extract covered in 1.1.1, the supplier shall provide the documentation necessary to show that the product is acceptable for inhalation and an attestation that the presence of the compound falls within the acceptable limits for inhalation.

1.2. The supplier shall attest to the following:

1.2.1. If the product contains one of following added ingredients, attest that the compound falls within the safe limits for inhalation and provide the related documentation.

- 1.2.1.1.** Phytol
- 1.2.1.2.** Medium-chain triglycerides (MCT), coconut oil
- 1.2.1.3.** Long-chain triglycerides
- 1.2.1.4.** Vitamin E acetate or another form of vitamin E
- 1.2.1.5.** Polyethylene Glycol (PEG 400)
- 1.2.1.6.** Any oil-based diluent
- 1.2.1.7.** Diacetyl
- 1.2.1.8.** 2,3-Pentanedione

1.2.2. Attest that the vaping liquid does not contain:

- 1.2.2.1.** Any natural or artificial colouring agent
- 1.2.2.2.** Any added flavour or aroma

1.3. Regarding the terpene content of the vaping liquid:

1.3.1. List all added terpenes and the quantity of each

1.3.2. Attest that the only terpenes present in the product are naturally occurring cannabis terpenes, or added naturally extracted cannabis terpenes.

1.3.3. Before bringing the product to market, the supplier must have a copy of its certificate of analysis, including the analysis of total terpenes.

1.3.4. The SQDC gives preference to products that contain cannabis terpenes that are naturally present in the extract as opposed to ones added to the extract. The addition of synthetic terpenes is prohibited. The SQDC will favour products with a maximum cannabis terpene concentration of 10%.

1.3.5. Whatever the origin or quantity of the terpenes, no added-terpene product shall have an aroma that is uncharacteristic of cannabis.

1.4. The cannabinoid and terpene content may vary though only if such variability is inherent in the nature of the extract (e.g. resin, rosin). Added ingredients, such as natural terpenes and distillates, may not vary.

1.4.1. In order to ensure consistency in the experience of using the product and in its quality, the SQDC requires stability in the extract extraction and formulation process, particularly as regards the viscosity and the cannabinoid and terpene content.

Compliance elements and desired features

② Composition of the cartridge

- 2.1. Submitted cartridges are to be equipped with a 510 connector and be exclusively compatible with a 510 thread battery.
- 2.2. The vaping cartridge is to be designed to prevent any kind of refilling by the user.
- 2.3. The cartridge is to come with a cap made from silicone or a similar material to prevent any product deterioration.
- 2.4. The presence of the standardized THC symbol is required.
- 2.5. The vaping cartridge is to be neutral in shape, design and components.
- 2.6. No branding may be present on vaping cartridge.
- 2.7. The mouthpiece may be coloured. The colour should match the cartridge packaging and allow users to know which product they are using so they can do so in an informed manner.
- 2.8. The SQDC encourages the practice of using and identifying cartridges by the mouthpiece colour. However, this identification method should not be construable as brand promotion of any kind.

- 2.9. The SQDC allows wording on cartridges for the purpose of clearly identifying the product once they are removed from the package or placed on the battery device. However, the wording on the cartridge shall be limited to the product name.



The images are shown for illustrative purposes only, to illustrate the product name on the vaping cartridge

Compliance elements and desired features

② Composition of the cartridge (cont.)

2.10. The supplier shall provide the following information to the SQDC as part of its product submission:

- 2.10.1. Identify the cartridge manufacturer and concisely demonstrate that it has a 12-month-or-longer record of selling cannabis vape cartridges in Canada.
- 2.10.2. Specify the cartridge model used and provide the manufacturer's documentation.
- 2.10.3. Specify the viscosity of the vaping liquid and state whether the cartridge is designed to function properly with this viscosity level.
- 2.10.4. Specify the resistance of the cartridge used. The SQDC requires cartridges with resistance greater than or equal to 1.5 Ohm. Furthermore, the SQDC will favour cartridges with a resistance greater than 1.5 Ohm.
- 2.10.5. Briefly describe the means and tests that the supplier uses to ensure the liquid is compatible with the cartridge in terms of the heating temperature, viscosity and risk of cartridge blockage.
- 2.10.6. State the recommended minimum and maximum vaping temperatures as related to the product's cannabinoid, terpene and diluent composition, as the case may be.
 - 2.10.6.1. The supplier shall specify, for the resistance of the cartridge used, the recommend minimum and maximum battery voltages for producing a heating temperature within the supplier-recommended range, and this information shall be based on tests carried out by the supplier.
 - 2.10.6.2. The SQDC expects to favour vaping temperatures in the 160°C to 220°C range.
- 2.10.7. Specify the material used for the cartridge seal or the technique used to seal the cartridge and attest that everything is designed to avoid leaky, dry or oxidized cartridges.

2.10.8. List the exact composition of the cartridge heating element and specify which materials are encased and which are in contact with the vaping liquid.

2.10.9. Provide the food grade certification for all cartridge components in contact with the vaping liquid.

2.11. The supplier shall attest to the following:

2.11.1. Certify that no heating element made from nickel, chromium or lead comes into contact with the vaping liquid.

2.12. Regarding the risk of chemical or metal compounds leaking into the vaping liquid:

2.12.1. The SQDC does not favour cartridges made from plastic or components that could leak and contaminate the vaping liquid (in particular bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates and styrenes contained in plastic). By citing tests carried out under real-life conditions and a relevant standard issued by Canadian or European Union authorities, the supplier may demonstrate that the contamination remains within the tolerated levels.

2.12.2. The supplier shall provide a list of the materials in contact with the vaping liquid. The SQDC will give strong preference to cartridges made from glass, ceramic and/or stainless steel and to cartridges for which the supplier can demonstrate, based on tests carried out under real-life conditions, that any contamination is controlled by the product design and, based on a relevant standard issued by Canadian or European Union authorities, that the contamination remains within the tolerated levels.

2.12.3. The supplier attests that it has carried out stability tests that establish a shelf life appropriate for the quality and non-contamination of the product under normal storage conditions. The supplier attests that they are committed to conducting tests to detect the release over time of heavy metals and contaminants in the aerosol particles emitted by the product under normal usage conditions. The SQDC reserves the right to conduct product tests to countercheck the risk of release of heavy metals and contaminants over time.

Compliance elements and desired features

③ Quality Assurance: control of quality, storage and return conditions

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| <p>3.1. Provide a life-cycle analysis for the product or recommendations to that effect, if applicable.</p> <p>3.2. State whether there are special handling or preservation conditions to be followed.</p> <p>3.3. The shipping cases should be packaged and clearly marked so as to allow for safe handling and storage in the proper orientation to avoid blockage, drying out, leakage and oxidation.</p> | <p>3.4. The supplier shall inform the SQDC of the recommend manner for storing the product to extend its stability.</p> <p>3.5. The supplier shall explain how it will produce a vape cartridge with less than 30% THC and how it will manage risks in this regard, based on the formulation used (e.g. viscosity, presence of a distillate, presence of added terpenes, presence of diluents, presence of minor cannabinoids). The SQDC will favour products with a total combined concentration of THC and intoxicating minor cannabinoids not exceeding 30% w/w.</p> |
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Compliance elements and desired features

④ Wordings, labels and packaging

The SQDC encourages its suppliers to label their products clearly. That being said, the labelling approach recommended by the SQDC cannot replace licence holders' judgement, current regulations or sound legal advice.

- 4.1.** The SQDC will be especially attentive to wording and labelling.
- 4.2.** No branding will be tolerated other than on the packaging that is visible during normal shopping conditions.
- 4.3.** The exact nature of the extract or extracts used shall be displayed on the packaging (for example, in the ingredients list).

Here are a few examples:

- 4.3.1.** The term "cannabis extract" will not be precise enough. The term "cannabis extract (fresh resin)" will be precise enough.
- 4.3.2.** Any distillate added to a formulation such as resin or rosin shall also be declared in the ingredient list in order to provide clear guidance to customers choosing a product.

- 4.4.** The ingredient list shall provide clear and complete information in order to provide clear guidance to customers choosing a product.

- 4.4.1.** Any diluents, terpenes or other components of the ingredients shall be declared exhaustively and accurately.

- 4.5.** All cannabinoids present intentionally or in significant quantities in the product shall be mentioned on the product label, including their concentrations.

- 4.6.** The SQDC will require that text on packages specifies the recommended voltage range based on tests carried out by the supplier on the vaping liquid contained in the cartridge and the cartridge's resistance.

- 4.7.** Additional information about product conservation and the instructions for use shall be included on the packaging with the aim of protecting users' health, encouraging proper use and preventing uses that could cause breakage or quality concerns.

Types of products sought

The SQDC is seeking to market 30 vape cartridges:

- **25 cartridges** available in all SQDC stores and on SQDC.ca
- **5 cartridges** available exclusively on SQDC.ca

Here are the product types sought by the SQDC:

→ The SQDC seeks vape cartridges made from the following extracts:

- Distillate
- Fresh resin
- Fresh rosin

→ The SQDC seeks vape cartridges with the following cannabinoid concentrations:

- THC: products with at least 50 mg/g THC
- Balanced: products with equal levels of THC and CBD
- CBD: products in which CBD is the dominant cannabinoid and with less than 50 mg/g THC

→ The SQDC seeks products with a range of THC intensities:

- Moderate: 50 to 100 mg/g THC
- Medium: 100 to 200 mg/g THC
- Strong: 200 to 300 mg/g THC

→ The SQDC intends to market its vape cartridge offer in the following retail price brackets:

- ≤ \$35.00: around 15% of the offer
- \$35.01 to \$45.00: around 60% of the offer
- \$45.01 to \$55.00: around 24% of the offer
- > \$55.00: around 1% of the offer

Important!

The SQDC reserves the right to review or modify the scope and segmentation of its product offer at any time and to provide a full distribution of its product selection within the different price brackets.

With the aim of ensuring customer satisfaction, the SQDC reserves the right to withdraw any product at any time, particularly those that do not meet its requirements for quality assurance, continuous supply or performance.

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