**Quality Assurance**

Quality is one factor that sets NSP apart from the competition. NSP has one of the most extensive quality testing facilities and is considered to be the quality leader in the natural supplement industry. NSP conducts independent testing to ensure that we provide high quality products. They meticulously test all raw materials and finished products. In all, there are more than 300 tests and procedures to ensure the quality of the raw materials used and the finished products we sell. The manufacturing facility enables Nature’s Sunshine to manufacture products following pharmaceutical grade GMPs (good manufacturing practices).

Because of this, Nature’s Sunshine stands by the Quality Assurance motto: “The Proof is in the Testing”. If any trace of foreign material, including fertilizers, pesticides, or any other matter is found, the batch is rejected and they refuse to purchase from that vendor again in the future. Therefore when you purchase Nature’s Sunshine products you can be guaranteed the product contains no residues from fertilizers or pesticides or other types of contamination.

Quality begins in selection, where only the finest herbs and raw materials are obtained. The company’s global sourcing of raw materials ensures that the highest quality products are chosen from each harvest season. After being harvested, these materials are shipped to the manufacturing facility, where they are subjected to a series of in-depth quality control tests to ensure purity, potency and cleanliness. Nature's Sunshine meticulously tests all of the raw materials they receive. The QA testing continues throughout the entire production process to ensure the quality of the raw materials and the finished products.

After all tests are completed and the product has passed the inspections, Quality Assurance will release the product. The batch record and a sample of the finished product are retained for future reference. If a customer has a question about a product, QA can refer to the retention sample of the lot in question. Every test that is conducted leads to better product quality and excellence in product quality is what has put Nature’s Sunshine products where they are today--at the top of the industry.

NSP chemists use sophisticated equipment to accomplish these tasks. High- Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Gas Chromatography (GC), Mass Spectrometry (MS) including HPLC-MS/MS, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry (FTIR), Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) and Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrometry (UV-VIS) are a few of the instruments at their disposal. NSP scientists’ expertise is recognized worldwide with publication of their methods in peer-reviewed journals.

Nature’s Sunshine Products does extensive testing to ensure that each of our capsule and tablet products meet stringent dissolution and disintegration requirements. Tablets and capsules are tested in accordance with the United States Pharmacopoeia. The capsules or tablets are placed in water maintained at 37 degrees C (body temperature) and the motion of the disintegration apparatus simulates the passage of a capsule through the body. The time required for each tablet and capsule to break down is recorded, and all tablets and capsules must dissolve within 30 minutes to be accepted by NSP Quality Assurance. Additionally, ongoing stability testing is conducted to ensure that capsules and tablets from a given lot continue to pass disintegration testing throughout the shelf life of the product.

Nature’s Sunshine can guarantee the quality and purity of every product we sell because they conduct their own extensive testing on every lot of every product. This is considered superior to most other companies that don’t have the facilities to do their testing. These companies have to rely on periodic testing from outside labs. Third party testing is highly recommended because very few herbal companies have the resources or staff to adequately conduct their own tests to ensure quality. NSP is one of the rare companies that can boast a full array of scientific testing equipment, as well as a full staff of scientists to conduct the tests. Because Nature’s Sunshine is able to test each and every batch of product, we consider our products to be superior to a company's who occasionally hires outside labs to test their herbs and vitamins/minerals on an intermittent basis.

It is not just NSP's opinion that we are quality leaders; an independent source has verified this. NSP was selected by National Outlook magazine as the "Manufacturer of the Year" for 2002. Nutritional Outlook is a leading monthly magazine serving the nutritional industry, analyzing developments in regulations, ingredients, quality control, manufacturing technology, packaging, marketing, and new products from the manufacturer's perspective.