Mycotoxins are hazardous to the health of humans and animals; however, their toxicity can vary significantly, depending on the type of mycotoxin and the route of exposure to it (inhalation, ingestion, or absorption), among other variables. To date, hundreds of mycotoxins have been identified that pose a risk to health. Some mycotoxins, produced by Aspergillus fungi and are considered carcinogenic and toxic. These mycotoxins are generally found in food, such as peanuts, maize and cannabis.

In a striking example of this health risk, a man in the U.S. was treated for chemotherapy side effects with medicinal marijuana. In another example, in Kenya several well-known brands were investigated for bacteria and fungi. In a third example, two Mexican men were hospitalized after eating contaminated corn flour. In a fourth example, aflatoxins were found in maize flour that was removed from supermarket shelves.

The health effects of mycotoxins vary widely and are influenced by a number of factors, including length and route of exposure, the mycotoxin identity, concentration, and aspects related to the body chemistry and genetic makeup of the human or animal being exposed.

Cannabis contamination

Unfortunately, cannabis-related products are not immune to the threat of mycotoxins. These products are derived from cannabis plants, which are susceptible to the growth of fungi which produce mycotoxins: the hidden cannabis threats. For example, products such as vape liquids, oils for food, cosmetics, and emulsions for beverages. As with other raw materials such as corn, sugar cane, peanuts and wheat, cannabis is susceptible to the growth of fungi which produce mycotoxins. Mycotoxins can transform our foods and beverages into highlight toxic consumer goods. If not carefully monitored and removed, these mycotoxins can transform our foods and beverages into highly toxic consumer goods.

Analytical testing

As cannabis markets continue to develop, it is important to ensure the safety of consumers. Analytical testing, when used properly and used as intended, gives assurance to users and allows them to be more informed about the products they are purchasing. Although methods and regulations have not been fully defined, it is always essential to use reliable reference materials for your analytical testing. We offer a broad range of mycotoxins and other cannabis-related reference materials, including a certificate of analysis. Discover our complete mycotoxin portfolio, as well as over 8,000 additional Dr. Ehrenstorfer reference materials available for food and environmental analysis, or contact us to explore our custom organic solutions options.