THE DOCUMENT CHECK BEFORE THE SUPPLIER CLAIM

Stop trusting the headline.

Use these seven checks to understand what a Certificate of Analysis does - and does not - establish.

01 **IDENTITY**

Does the report confirm what the tested compound is? Look for a named identity method, a reference or validated comparison, and a result tied to the sample.

02 **PURITY**

Find the analytical method and chromatogram. A purity percentage describes the relative signal in that test; it does not tell you how much material is in the container.

03 **QUANTITY / CONTENT**

Look for a measured net content or assay result in mass units. Do not confuse the labeled amount with an independently measured result.

04 **LOT MATCH**

The lot or batch identifier should match across the report, product record, and sample information. Review received, analysis, and issue dates for consistency.

05 **STERILITY**

When sterility is claimed, verify that the report identifies the method, sample, specification, and result. No sterility result means the report did not establish sterility.

06 **ENDOTOXIN**

Look for a quantitative result, units, method, and stated specification. Endotoxin testing and sterility testing answer different questions.

07 **CONTAMINANTS / METALS**

Confirm which analytes were tested, the method used, reporting limits, and actual results. 'Not detected' is meaningful only in relation to the method's detection limit.

FINAL VERIFICATION

Open the laboratory verification page directly. Confirm the access code, report number, sample or lot identifier, dates, laboratory identity, and the scope of any accreditation shown.

A COA is evidence, not a guarantee.

Score the documentation that is actually present. Do not award points for claims, product-page copy, screenshots, or assumptions about tests that are not reported.

QUICK EVIDENCE RATING

- **STRONG - Lot-specific report, clear methods, measured results, independently verifiable**
- **PARTIAL - Some useful testing, but important methods, results, or traceability are missing**
- **WEAK - Marketing claim, screenshot, mismatched lot, or report that cannot be verified**

Five red flags worth slowing down for

01 The report shows a purity percentage but no identity or quantity result.

02 The lot number is missing, cropped, or different from the product being discussed.

03 A QR code or access code does not resolve to the laboratory's own verification system.

04 The supplier treats 'not reported' as if it means 'passed.'

05 The document is used to make claims beyond the sample, lot, method, or analytes actually tested.

WHAT THIS CHECKLIST CANNOT TELL YOU

A report speaks to the tested sample, method, and analytes. It cannot establish every possible contaminant, ongoing supplier practices, future lots, or suitability for any use. A supplier relationship or affiliate partnership does not replace evidence.

Affiliate disclosure: Compound IQ may earn commissions through clearly identified partner links. Partnerships do not change our review framework.

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