



**Crime Laboratory  
SOP 83-2**

**Number:** 02-01-01  
**Subject:** Large Quantity Drug Submittal  
**Effective Date:** March 1, 2000  
**Revision Date:** February 22, 2023

I. Purpose

To define the amount of drugs that can be submitted in one case to be tested for controlled substances and/or latent prints.

II. Background Information

A. The Crime Laboratory is responsible for the receipt and storage, during testing, of evidence submitted by all law enforcement agencies in the state of Nebraska. Due to space and safety considerations, and state sentencing guidelines, limits have been placed on the weight/volume of substances which may be submitted for controlled substance testing.

B. As defined in § 28-416 of the Nebraska Criminal Code, the State sentencing guidelines are:

1. The maximum weight of cocaine or cocaine base is 140 grams.
2. The maximum weight of marijuana is 1 lb.
3. The maximum weight of heroin is 140 grams.
4. The maximum weight of amphetamine or methamphetamine is 140 grams.

C. These weights are necessary to provide the maximum penalty at sentencing. The limits in section III. below have been set to ensure they meet and actually exceed the required weights.

III. Policy for Controlled Substance Testing

A. Marijuana

1. For large marijuana cases, up to 2 lbs. will be accepted into the laboratory. In the event one brick weighs more than 2 lbs., one total brick will be accepted.

2. If it is necessary to have all other bricks tested, samples from each remaining brick may be submitted. These samples should be identified as samples, coming from a larger brick, and will be analyzed, but not weighed, as the weight would have no meaning.

B. Cocaine

1. For large cocaine or heroin cases, up to 1 kg (approx. 2 lbs.) of powder will be accepted into the laboratory. In the event that one bundle weighs more than 1 kilo, we will accept one total bundle.
2. If it is necessary to have all other bundles tested, samples from each remaining bundle will be accepted. These samples should be identified as samples, coming from a larger bundle and will be analyzed, but not weighed, as the weight would have no meaning.

C. Methamphetamine

For large methamphetamine cases submission of the entire amount is recommended.

D. Clandestine Laboratory Samples

Large quantities of hazardous chemicals will not be accepted by the Crime Laboratory. Please contact the crime laboratory for instructions for proper submission of liquid or hazardous chemicals.

E. Fentanyl

The NSP Crime Laboratory should be contacted prior to submission of large cases suspected of containing fentanyl.

IV. Policy for Latent Prints

- A. Only packaging of items tested for the presence of controlled substances as per Section III above will be examined for latent prints if requested.
- B. Latent print analysis will not be performed on items in which fentanyl or related compounds are confirmed
- C. Latent processing on suspected drug items that will not be tested by the Controlled Substances Section in accordance with SOP 83-2 shall be approved by the NSP Crime Laboratory Latent Print Section prior to the evidence being submitted to the laboratory.