



NSP CRIME LABORATORY CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL DRUGS



I. Examinations

Examiners in the Drug Section analyze materials for the presence of controlled substances. Controlled substances are defined as per Nebraska Revised Statutes section 28-405.

A. Items which can be analyzed for the presence controlled substances:

1. Powders
2. Tablets and capsules
3. Liquids
4. Plant material
5. Extracts of plant material and edible preparations
6. Paper squares (blotter paper)
7. Transdermal Patches
8. "K2" aka synthetic cannabinoids
9. "Bath Salts"
10. Federal Methamphetamine cases purity determination, upon consultation with the federal prosecutor
11. Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories
 - a. Identification of methamphetamine
 - b. Identification of ephedrine/pseudo-ephedrine
 - c. Screening for strong acids and bases but no identification
 - d. Screening for organic solvents but no identification or comparison
 - e. No capacity determination
 - f. No synthesis route determination

B. Controlled substances are analyzed using a combination of the following techniques:

1. Screening
 - a. Color tests
 - b. Literature Search (for all tablets and capsules which have a "manufacturer's" imprint)
 - c. Gas Chromatography (GC)
 - d. Microscopic Examination
2. Confirmation
 - a. Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)

Document ID: 1670

Revision Number: 2

Date Approved: 5/9/2016 8:35:00 AM

Authorized By: Crime Laboratory Director

Page 1 of 9

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED IF IT APPEARS OUTSIDE OF NSPCL'S QUALTRAX



**NSP CRIME LABORATORY
CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL
DRUGS**



C. Weighing of samples

1. All items with weight, which do not exceed the policies of the laboratory (see section II.A.3 below), are weighed without packaging.
2. Total Net weights are reported, for all like substances, in the results section of the report with a $\pm 0._ _ \text{g}$ following the weight. This weight range is what has been determined, with a 99.73% certainty, to be what the item would weigh if you repeated the measurement 100 times.
3. If weights are combined the weights of individual items are reported in a separate attachment to the report with their associated \pm value.

D. The results of analyses are reported in the following ways:

1. *Item(s) ___ Confirmed ____, Schedule _____. Total Net Wt. = ___ \pm ____.*

This means the substance was identified and we can testify to the results and weight in court.

2. *Item(s)___: Negative for controlled substances.*

This means we analyzed the substance and nothing controlled was identified.

3. *Item(s)____: Negative for controlled substances. Analysis indicated _____.*

This means the substance was screened and determined not to be controlled and was not confirmed. We are providing the possible identity for investigative purposes.

4. *Item(s)___: Negative for controlled substances. Literature search indicated _____*

This means the item was a tablet or capsule which was not analyzed past a literature search which found it to be over-the-counter or prescription only.



NSP CRIME LABORATORY CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL DRUGS



5. *Item(s)_____: No analysis*

This statement means no analysis was performed on the sample.

6. *Item(s)_____: Analysis indicated, but did not confirm____, Schedule _____. Total Net Wt. = _____±_____.*

This means we did not confirm the substance, even though it is controlled, because we do not have a verified reference material for comparison.

7. *Item(s)_____: Confirmed _____, Schedule _____. Not weighed as per NSP SOP 83-2 02-01.*

This means the submitted items were in excess of the amount permitted to be weighed by the Crime Lab's NSP SOPs. The samples were analyzed and confirmed but no weight is reported.

8. *Item(s)_____: Insufficient quantity/quality*

This means no analysis or incomplete analysis due to the condition or size of the sample.

II. Packaging and Submission of Evidence

To provide the information needed for prosecution of drug cases, it is important that drug evidence be collected and packaged in a manner to best preserve its integrity. Because the drug section of the crime laboratory processes approximately 3000 cases annually, it is also vital that careful consideration is given to the evidence being submitted.

A. Evidence Submission Guidelines:

1. Only items ABSOLUTELY needed for testing should be submitted. All other items collected should be packaged separately and should NOT be submitted to the laboratory.
2. DO NOT submit pre-test kits with evidence. Pretest kits contain acids and other caustic chemicals that can destroy evidence if packaged together. If pretesting is done, the results should be recorded and the pretest kits destroyed.



NSP CRIME LABORATORY CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL DRUGS



3. Residue Submission:

- a. Only one item of residue per suspect should be submitted and will be tested. The "ownership" of the items should be clearly marked on the submittal form. Multiple items may be submitted if:
 - i. They may contain different substances
 - ii. They were probable cause for a search and are clearly marked on the submittal form.

4. Large case submission: (those containing a large quantity of powder or plant material)

- a. **Marijuana** (see number 8 below for harvesting and grow operations)
 - i. Up to 2lbs will be accepted into the laboratory
 - ii. In the event one brick weighs more than 2lbs, one total brick will be accepted
 - iii. If it is necessary to have other bricks, above the 2lbs tested, samples from each remaining brick may be submitted. These samples should be identified as samples, and will be analyzed but not weighed.

b. Methamphetamine

- i. Submission of the entire amount is allowed

c. Cocaine and Heroin

- i. Up to 1kg (approximately 2lbs) of powder will be accepted into the laboratory. In the event one bundle weighs more than 1kg, the entire bundle will be accepted.
- ii. If it is necessary to have other bundles tested, samples from each remaining bundle may be submitted. These samples should be identified as samples, and will be analyzed but not weighed.

5. Drug cases needing latent print processing:

- a. For large cases, as listed above, the packaging of the drugs submitted for controlled substance testing can be examined for

Document ID: 1670

Revision Number: 2

Date Approved: 5/9/2016 8:35:00 AM

Authorized By: Crime Laboratory Director

Page 4 of 9

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED IF IT APPEARS OUTSIDE OF NSPCL'S QUALTRAX



NSP CRIME LABORATORY CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL DRUGS



latent prints if requested

- i. If latent processing of additional large seizure packages is deemed necessary, approval must be obtained from the latent print section prior to the evidence being submitted to the laboratory.
- b. For “normal” cases, if at all possible, separate the items needing controlled substance testing and the items needing latent print testing.
 - i. Powder or plant material items where packaging requires processing for latent prints should be repackaged and submitted separated from the original packaging

6. Syringe Submission:

- a. The crime laboratory DOES NOT accept any hypodermic syringes as evidence. Syringe “rinses” or contents will be tested only if (see B.2.c below for proper packaging of syringe rinses):
 - i. They are probable cause for a search and this information is clearly marked on the submittal form.
 - ii. They are the only item of evidence pertaining to a particular suspect
 - iii. The prosecution can provide justification for the necessity of their testing
- b. Cases received at the laboratory containing syringes will be returned to the agency without analysis and may only be resubmitted once the syringe has been removed.

7. Tablet/capsule submission:

- a. Check logos on any “pharmaceutically prepared” tablets or capsules prior to submission. Resources include but are not limited to:
 - i. Drugs.com
 - ii. Drug Identification Bible
 - iii. Poison Control Hotlines



**NSP CRIME LABORATORY
CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL
DRUGS**



- b. ONLY submit tablets/capsules that contain controlled substances, or are “clandestinely manufactured”, e.g. suspected MDMA tablets. DO NOT submit over-the-counter or prescription only tablets/capsules
- c. Items consisting of marked tablets or capsules in a prescription bottle, for that drug, marked with the defendant’s name, will not be tested except in prescription fraud, tampering and death investigations cases. This information must be clearly communicated at the time of submission.

8. Harvesting Cases and Grow Operations

a. Marijuana Harvesting or Grow Operations

- i. Always contact the laboratory for information on your specific situation
- ii. Photograph all items “in-situ”
- iii. Submission of only 2lbs or less of plant material without stalks and roots. No pots or entire plants

b. Psilocybin Mushroom Grow Operations

- i. Contact the laboratory PRIOR to submission, and as soon as possible after discovery of the “grow”
- ii. Photograph all items “in-situ”
- iii. Mushroom spores are NOT controlled
 - 1. Attempted manufacture prosecutions are possible
 - 2. Special arrangements required to have spores DNA tested for identity. This is NOT possible at the crime lab.
- iv. Any actual mushrooms can be submitted to the laboratory for testing
 - 1. Contact the laboratory for information on your specific situation



NSP CRIME LABORATORY CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL DRUGS



9. Clandestine Laboratory Evidence:

- a. Submit samples of liquids in leak proof containers
- b. Submit entire amount of powder substances
- c. Do not submit lithium
- d. Do not submit anhydrous ammonia
- e. Call with specific questions

10. Drug cases which contain firearms evidence:

- a. Package firearm and drug evidence in separate container, as separate items.
- b. Follow all additional firearm submissions guidelines

B. Packaging Guidelines:

Drug evidence packaging needs to accommodate many things including; health hazards associated with certain drug items, e.g. evidence carried in body cavities, the variable characteristics of drug evidence, e.g. liquids, powders, plant material, and the different modes of transportation to reach the laboratory, e.g. hand delivery vs. certified mail.

Please ensure that careful consideration is given to the type of item and the mode of transport when packaging your items of evidence. Items being sent through the mail require extra packaging to protect them from loss or damage.

1. Appropriate Packaging Materials

- a. Sealed **plastic bags** and **plastic evidence bags** can typically safely contain potent drug evidence. They are appropriate for packaging:
 - i. Powder evidence
 - ii. Dried plant material
 - iii. Liquids if they are first contained in a leak-proof glass or plastic bottle
 - iv. Smaller items that are too small for submission alone

Important information:

- i. Plastic bags are NOT appropriate for fresh plant material. Fresh plant material molds very quickly in an airtight

Document ID: 1670

Revision Number: 2

Date Approved: 5/9/2016 8:35:00 AM

Authorized By: Crime Laboratory Director

Page 7 of 9

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED IF IT APPEARS OUTSIDE OF NSPCL'S QUALTRAX

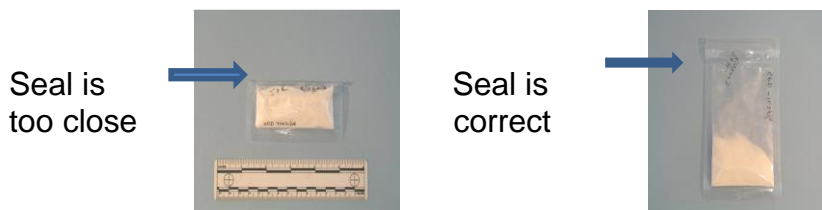


**NSP CRIME LABORATORY
CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL
DRUGS**



environment.

- ii. Seals placed too close to the evidence make it difficult for the analyst to re-seal the evidence after analysis.



- b. Sealed **manila envelopes** or **paper bags** are appropriate for packaging:

- i. Fresh plant material
- ii. Smaller items that are too small for submission alone

- c. **Red topped tubes or vials for syringe rinses.** If a hypodermic syringe meets any of the requirements listed in section II.A.6, the contents or a rinse of the syringe may be obtained and submitted in the following manner:

- i. Syringes with liquid contents:

- 1. CAREFULLY “inject” the liquid into:
 - a. An unused “red topped tube”



or

- b. An unused vial which will not leak





**NSP CRIME LABORATORY
CRIME LABORATORY MANUAL
DRUGS**



ii. Syringes with no liquid contents

1. CAREFULLY rinse through syringe body with either rubbing alcohol or water, allowing the liquid to “sit” in the syringe body for several minutes.
2. DO NOT use a large volume of liquid as this dilutes any substances which may be present and makes testing more difficult.
3. Place liquid into containers as listed above.

d. Vials or “Nalgene” jars for liquid samples

i. Liquids suspected to contain controlled substances should be submitted in small amounts in either:

1. Leak-proof Nalgene jars



or

2. Leak-proof glass vials

