



B90 The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG): Update

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After attending this presentation, the attendee will learn about the updates to the SWGDRUG process and become familiar with the most recent recommendations for forensic drug analysis.

This presentation will describe familiarization with the recommended standards for forensic drug analysis.

The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) has been in existence since 1997. The mission of SWGDRUG is to recommend minimum standards for the forensic examination of seized drugs and to seek their international acceptance.

The objectives of SWGDRUG are the following:

- To recommend minimum standards for forensic drug analysts' knowledge skills and abilities
- To promote professional development of forensic drug analysts
- To provide a means of information exchange within the forensic drug analyst community
- To promote the highest ethical standards of practitioners in all areas of forensic drug analysis

- To recommend minimum standards for drug examinations and reporting
- To establish quality assurance recommendations
- To seek the international acceptance of SWGDRUG minimum standards

The SWGDRUG core committee is comprised of representatives from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Australia, the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), Africa, and South America, a forensic science educator, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), ASTM, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). All members of the core committee have worked together over the past six years to build a consensus on the development of recommendations which have impacted forensic drug analysis standards internationally.

Published recommendations have been available since 2000 to forensic scientists around the world. These recommendations have addressed Methods of Analysis, Education and Training, and Quality Assurance issues. All recommendations were developed with input from the international forensic drug analyst community.

SWGDRUG has undertaken the development of a second set of recommendations which will address the following:

- Developing ethics, competence and certification standards for forensic drug analysts
- Validating analytical methods for seized drugs
- Sampling seized drugs for qualitative analysis

These three sets of recommendations are currently in the discussion phase. After the forensic science community has had an opportunity to review all recommendations and provide comments, the revised recommendations will be adopted by the SWGDRUG core committee and published.

This presentation will focus on the status of the recommendations currently being developed, and enhancements to the recommendations originally published in 2000. Representatives from the SWGDRUG Core Committee will be in attendance to answer questions and address concerns of those in attendance at the presentation.

Criminalistics, SWGDRUG, Drug Analysis