



Toxicology Section – 2006

K32 Recommendations for Toxicological Investigations of Drug Impaired Driving Cases from the Joint SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee and the National Safety Council Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about improved analytical protocols for DUID toxicological specimens.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by increasing standardization of analytical protocols in laboratories supporting the DRE program and increasing the effectiveness of DUID prosecution.

In May 2004, under the auspices of the National Safety Council's Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs (NSC-COAD), a panel of toxicologists, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers trained as Drug Recognition Experts gathered to identify problems with the current system of prosecuting drug impaired driving cases, from the point of detection through adjudication. The panel in their report of the meeting sites lack of standardization of practices in toxicology laboratories supporting DUID programs as one of the major problems. The toxicology laboratory provides analysis of the biological specimen collected during the investigation. The labs need to test for the most frequently encountered drugs in these cases, and use an appropriate level of sensitivity. Along with comprehensive documentation by the DRE officer, good quality forensic toxicology is an essential part of the prosecution of a DUID case.

The Joint SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee and the NSCCOAD were charged with identifying the laboratories performing DRE toxicology and to survey these laboratories to document their current practices. This was accomplished with the help of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Once the survey was completed, the panel recommended that guidelines be developed to direct the development of more consistent procedures and protocols.

The presentation today will highlight results of the survey providing data on the scope and sensitivity of testing in practice today. Recommendations for Toxicological Investigations of Drug Impaired Driving Cases are being developed and the current status of these recommendations, to include drugs to be included in analytical protocols and appropriate analytical thresholds in blood and urine, will be provided.

DUID, Lab Survey, Laboratory Guidelines