



A146 2012 Update From the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)

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After attending this presentation attendees will learn about the history and current development of the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG). SWGDRUG was formed in 1997 in a joint effort between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Office of Forensic Sciences and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The mission of SWGDRUG is to recommend minimum standards for the forensic examination of seized drugs and to seek their international acceptance. This presentation will provide attendees with an update on SWGDRUG activities during the year 2011, including revisions to SWGDRUG recommendations and other work products in development.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing current recommendations, new developments, and future projects and direction of SWGDRUG as it relates to the analysis of seized drugs.

During January 2011, version 5.1 of the SWGDRUG Recommendations was approved and made available to the general public via the group's website (www.swgdrug.org). This version of the recommendations included revisions to Part III A and Section 6 pertaining to "Reporting." Version 6.0 of the SWGDRUG Recommendations was approved in July 2011. This latest version includes a new section (Part III C) providing recommendations for the analysis of clandestine laboratory samples. Version 6.0 is also available through the SWGDRUG website.

In the first part of 2011, SWGDRUG also made available the first version of its mass spectral library. Laboratory analysts throughout the world can download this library from the SWGDRUG website and onto their laboratory instruments. The library contains more than 1400 spectra, including many of the recently encountered synthetic cannabinoids and their isomers. Initial feedback from analysts and library users has been highly positive. The library will be updated on a regular basis and contributions from the forensic community are strongly encouraged.

During 2010, the SWGDRUG core committee finalized and approved Supplemental Document SD-3. This document provides four examples of measurement uncertainty calculations for weight determinations. Since the document's release, comments were received from the forensic community and the document was revised to provide clarifications and useful information to future users. This presentation will include a general summary and discussion of the latest version of SD-3 dated July 2011.

During the first half of 2011, users of the SWGDRUG website were also encouraged to submit comments regarding the use and impact of SWGDRUG Recommendations within the forensic science community. The SWGDRUG core committee is constantly interested in obtaining direct feedback from laboratory analysts and managers as to the use of SWGDRUG Recommendations and other documents. A general overview of the community feedback received throughout 2011 will be presented.

Currently, members of the SWGDRUG core committee are working on the following projects:

- Examples of laboratory reporting
- Supplemental document containing examples of measurement uncertainty calculations for purity determinations
- Online resource center for drug analysis training

The SWGDRUG core committee is comprised of representatives from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Australia, and Singapore. The following forensic organizations are represented: the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the Academia Iberoamericana de Criminalística y Estudios Forenses (AICEF), the Asian Forensic Science Network (AFSN), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Core committee members also include forensic science educators and representatives from forensic science organizations across the United States, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

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