



A208 2013 Update From the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be knowledgeable of SWGDRUG activities during 2012, including revisions to SWGDRUG recommendations, new supplemental documents, 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.

The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (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 2012, including revisions to SWGDRUG recommendations, new Supplemental Documents, and other work products in development.

In January 2012, version 6 of the SWGDRUG Recommendations was current and available to the general public via the group's website (www.swgdrug.org). Currently, the SWGDRUG core committee is working on revising recommendations pertaining to the use of reference materials. Laboratories throughout the world are encountering difficulties obtaining and verifying new reference materials. These tasks have become more overwhelming with the appearance of new designer drugs like synthetic cannabinoids and bath salts. Revisions to the recommendations will include minimum procedures for the verification of these materials, as well as alternative guidance for when newly emerging materials are encountered and verification is limited to structural elucidation procedures.

In 2012, revised versions of the SWGDRUG mass spectral library were made available to the general community. Currently, the library contains more than 1,600 spectra, including many of the recently encountered synthetic cannabinoids, bath salt compounds, and their isomers. Laboratory analysts throughout the world can download this library from the SWGDRUG website and onto their laboratory instruments. Feedback from analysts and library users continues to be highly positive. The library will continue to be updated on a regular basis and contributions from the forensic community are strongly encouraged.

During 2012, the SWGDRUG core committee finalized Supplemental Document SD-4. This document provides three examples of measurement uncertainty calculations for purity determinations. A draft of the document was made available for public comments via the SWGDRUG website during July – September. Comments received from the public will be reviewed and addressed during the next core committee meeting (January 2013). This presentation will include a general summary and discussion of this supplemental document.

Also during 2012, the SWGDRUG core committee finalized, approved, and posted Supplemental Document SD-5. This document contains two examples of laboratory reports showing how minimum SWGDRUG recommendations can be fulfilled. The two report examples included in SD-5 will also be discussed during this presentation.

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

- Online resource center for drug analysis training
- Assessing the current controlled substance analogue issue

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).

Criminalistics, SWGDRUG, Drug Analysis