



Priority Action Report

Seized Drugs Subcommittee

SAC Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis
Sandra E. Rodriguez-Cruz, Ph.D. – Chair
February 23, 2016





Subcommittee Leadership

Position	Name	Organization	Term	Email
Chair	Sandra E. Rodriguez-Cruz, Ph.D.	Drug Enforcement Administration	2	Sandra.E.Rodriguez-Cruz@usdoj.gov
Vice Chair	David K. Gouldthorpe	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Forensic Laboratory	3	d13317g@lvmpd.com
Executive Secretary	Agnes D. Winokur	Drug Enforcement Administration	2	Agnes.D.Winokur@usdoj.gov



Subcommittee Members



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5	Garth Glassburg	Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory	2	gglassburg@nircl.org
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9	Elzbieta “Ella” Kubicz , Ph.D.	Wyoming State Crime Laboratory	4	ella.kubicz@wyo.gov



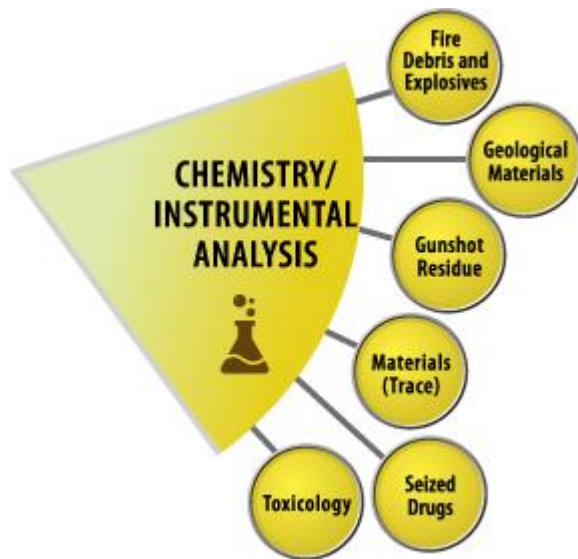
Subcommittee Members



#	Name	Organization	Term	Email
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16	Sandra B. Sachs, Ph.D.	Oakland Police Department Criminalistics Laboratory	2	ssachs@oaklandnet.com
17	Travis J. Worst, Ph.D.	Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation	2	travis.worst@ohioattorneygeneral.gov



Discipline Description



The Seized Drugs Subcommittee will focus on standards and guidelines related to the examination of evidence to identify drugs and related substances.



Subcommittee Liaisons

Position	Name
QIC Liaison	Thomas A. Brettell, Ph.D.
HFC Liaison	Eric C. Person, Ph.D.
LRC Liaison	Garth Glassburg
KAVI Liaison	Tiffany A. Ribadeneyra
ASTM Liaison	Agnes D. Winokur



Summary of Standards/Guidelines Priority Actions



Priority	Working Title of Document
1	<u>E2548-11</u> Standard Guide for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
2	<u>E2327-15</u> Standard Practice for Quality Assurance of Laboratories Performing Seized-Drug Analysis
3	<u>E2882-12</u> Standard Guide for Analysis of Clandestine Drug Laboratory Evidence



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 1 Document



Document Title: [E2548-11](#) Standard Guide for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

Scope: Covers minimum considerations regarding the sampling of seized-drug evidence prior to analysis

Rationale: By developing sampling strategies and implementing appropriate sampling schemes, laboratories will minimize the number of units requiring analysis while at the same time ensuring that all relevant legal and scientific requirements are met.

Issues/Concerns: - Incorrect application of sampling approaches
- Incorrect population inferences



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 1 Document

Key Components of Standard:

- Establishes minimum criteria for laboratory sampling procedures
- Discusses different sampling issues:
 - Statistical vs non-statistical
 - Statutory limits and jurisdictions
 - Population inferences



Priority 1: Sampling Seized Drugs

Task Group/Subcommittee Action Plan

Planned Actions	OSAC Process Stage	Assignee	Estimated Completion Date
Registry forms to FSSB	RA-1600	SAC	Spring/Summer 2016
FSSB approval	RA-1700	FSSB	
Public appeals process	RA-1800		
Registry forms & approval to QIC	RA-2000		
OSAC Registry of Approved Standards	RA-2100	QIC	

* A revised version of this document is pending SDO approval



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 2 Document



Document Title: **E2327-15** Standard Practice for Quality Assurance of Laboratories Performing Seized-Drug Analysis

Scope: Covers quality assurance issues in forensic laboratories performing drug analysis

Objective: To be used by forensic analysts and supported by laboratory management

Goal: To provide a framework of quality in the processing of drug evidence

Task Group Name: Quality Assurance (QA)

Technical Contact: Tiffany Ribadeneyra

Technical Contact Information: tribadeneyra@nassaucountyny.gov

Date of Last Task Group Meeting: January 2016



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 2 Document

Key Components of Standard:

- Evidence handling
- Analytical procedures
- Report writing
- Method validation
- Documentation
- Proficiency testing
- Audits
- Health and safety



Priority 2: Quality Assurance

Task Group/Subcommittee Action Plan

Planned Actions	OSAC Process Stage	Assignee	Estimated Completion Date
SAC Review & Vote	RA-200/300	SAC	Spring 2016
Notice of Intent & Public Comment Period	RA-400/500		
RC Review & Comments	RA-600	RC	
Comments Adjudication	RA-700	Seized Drugs	Summer 2016





Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 3 Document

Document Title: [E2882-12](#) Standard Guide for Analysis of
Clandestine Drug Laboratory Evidence

Scope: Provides guidance on the chemical analysis of items and
samples related to suspected clandestine laboratories

Objective: To ensure selected analytical schemes are fit for purpose
and provide reliable results

Issues: - Understanding of clandestine synthetic routes
- CL analysis may require non-routine approaches

Task Group Name: Clandestine Lab Analysis

Technical Contact: Christian Matchett

Technical Contact Information: christian.c.matchett2.civ@mail.mil

Date of Last Task Group Meeting: January 2016



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 3 Document

Key Components of Standard:

- Terminology
- Safety issues
- Sampling of CL evidence
- Analysis
- Yield and capacity calculations
- Conclusions and reporting
- Training



Priority 3: Clan Lab Analysis

Task Group/Subcommittee Action Plan

Planned Actions	OSAC Process Stage	Assignee	Estimated Completion Date
Complete Registry Forms	RA-100	Seized Drugs	Spring 2016
SAC Review & Vote	RA-200/300	SAC	Summer 2016
Notice of Intent & Public Comment Period	RA-400/500		
RC Review & Comments	RA-600	RC	
Comments Adjudication	RA-700	Seized Drugs	Fall 2016





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1	<u>E2548-11</u> Standard Guide for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
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Standards/Guidelines Reviewed For Technical Merit



Title	Developing Organization	Status*	OSAC Process Stage
<u>E2764-11</u> : Standard Practice for Uncertainty Assessment in the Context of Seized-Drug Analysis	ASTM	SDO revision	---
<u>E1968-11</u> : Standard Guide for Microcrystal Testing in Forensic Analysis of Cocaine	ASTM	SDO revision	---
<u>E1969-11</u> : Standard Guide for Microcrystal Testing in Forensic Analysis of Methamphetamine and Amphetamine	ASTM	Evaluation	---
<u>E2125-11</u> : Standard Guide for Microcrystal Testing in Forensic Analysis of Phencyclidine and Its Analogues	ASTM	Evaluation	---



Research Gaps Identified

- Acceptance Criteria for Instrumental Data related to Qualitative Seized Drug Analysis
 - Goal: To standardize acceptance criteria and develop an interpretation strategy that allows consistent conclusions to be drawn from qualitative instrumental data
 - Chromatography, Spectrometry, Spectroscopy
 - Result: To improve analysts' ability to render conclusions based upon objectively interpreted data

Research Gaps Identified

- Error rates in Qualitative Methods of Analysis
 - Goal: To quantitatively evaluate error rates associated with individual qualitative methods of analysis, as well as with analytical schemes that combine multiple methods of analysis
 - Issues: How does the quality of data influences false positive and false negative identification rate in seized drug analysis?
 - Result: Better communication of results to triers of fact

Future Task Groups

- Acceptance Criteria – Evaluation of current resources/documents
 - Mass spectrometry
 - IR spectroscopy
- Error Rates
- Instrumental Reference Libraries

Additional Items of Interest

- **First year:**
 - First OSAC Registry Standard (E2329)
 - > 12 virtual SC/TG meetings
 - > 15 ballots
- **Seized Drugs** Representatives to SAC Interdisciplinary Groups :
 - Terminology – Ella Kubicz
 - Proficiency Testing – Claire Dragovich
 - Education/Training – Eric Person
 - Quality Assurance – Tiffany Ribadeneyra

Seized
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