

Technical Procedure for Clandestine Laboratory Analysis

- 1.0 Purpose** - To provide the Clandestine Laboratory Certified Forensic Scientist with a general guideline of how to process evidence from a suspected clandestine laboratory site once he/she has returned to the State Crime Laboratory.
- 2.0 Scope** - This procedure applies to Clandestine Laboratory Certified Forensic Scientists in the Drug Chemistry at the Raleigh, Triad, and Western locations of the State Crime Laboratory.
- 3.0 Definitions**
- **Clandestine Laboratory** – an illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that either has been or could be used in the manufacture or synthesis of controlled substances.
- 4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents** - See Section technical procedures as needed.
- 5.0 Procedure**
- 5.1 Standards and Controls** - N/A
- 5.2 Calibrations** - N/A
- 5.3 Sampling** - See the [Drug Chemistry Section Technical Procedure for Sampling](#) and the [Drug Chemistry Section Technical Procedure for Drug Analysis](#).
- 5.4 Evidence Handling and Paperwork**
- 5.4.1** Samples are brought back to the State Crime Laboratory in the custody of the responding Forensic Scientist who processed the clandestine laboratory site.
- 5.4.2** The responding Forensic Scientist will ensure that all items of evidence are sealed, labeled, and placed in a secure storage locker upon his/her return to the Laboratory.
- 5.4.3** Upon return from a clandestine laboratory site, the responding Forensic Scientist will complete the [Request for Examination of Physical Evidence \(Form SBI-5\)](#) and the [Short Technical Field Assistance \(TFA\)](#) form and submit to the Evidence Control Section by the end of the next business day after his/her return to the State Crime Laboratory.
- 5.4.4** This serves to give the case a Laboratory Identification Number and to initiate the chain of custody for the evidence in the FA System.
- 5.4.5** As soon as the case has been given a Laboratory Identification Number, this number shall be documented on all items of evidence.
- 5.4.6** Within 48 hours of his/her return to the Laboratory, the Forensic Scientist shall provide a copy of his/her field notes (or a typed inventory) to the SBI Site Safety Officer and the requesting officer.
- 5.5 Clandestine Laboratory Cases in the FA System**

- 5.5.1 Field notes and Laboratory analysis notes shall be compiled into two different case records in the FA System.
 - 5.5.2 The field notes FA case record shall include:
 - 5.5.2.1 Clandestine Laboratory Response Form (see Section files for printable version).
 - 5.5.2.2 A copy of the responding Forensic Scientist's handwritten field notes (or typed inventory) from the clandestine laboratory site.
 - 5.5.2.3 Short and Long Technical Field Assistance (TFA) form.
 - 5.5.2.3.1 Note: the Short TFA shall be scanned into the RFLE for the FA case record.
 - 5.5.2.3.2 Note: the Long for TFA is generated in the FA System and serves as an official report listing the various substances found/seized/destroyed at the clandestine laboratory site.
 - 5.5.2.4 Any clandestine laboratory site photographs taken by the responding Forensic Scientist.
 - 5.5.2.5 Percent yield calculations.
 - 5.5.2.6 A copy of the responding Forensic Scientist's Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Statement of Qualifications.
 - 5.5.2.7 Copies of any administrative documents (e.g., e-mails/communication logs to other officers involved in the investigation, court documents, etc.)
 - 5.5.3 The Laboratory analysis FA case record shall include:
 - 5.5.3.1 Request for Examination of Physical Evidence (SBI-5) as completed by the responding Forensic Scientist.
 - 5.5.3.1.1 Note: the SBI-5 shall be scanned into the RFLE for the case record.
 - 5.5.3.2 Any and all data pertaining to the Laboratory analysis of items seized from the clandestine laboratory site for processing at the Laboratory.
 - 5.5.3.3 A copy of the responding Forensic Scientist's Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Statement of Qualifications.
 - 5.5.3.4 Copies of any administrative documents.
 - 5.5.4 Clandestine Laboratory Case Files shall be reviewed by the Forensic Scientist Manager or his/her designee.
- 5.6 Analysis of Clandestine Laboratory Evidence

5.6.1 Based on his/her training and experience, a Forensic Scientist shall select samples to analyze, keeping in mind that items of evidence containing the critical components to demonstrate fully the manufacture or intent to manufacture a controlled substance shall be worked.

5.6.1.1 In addition to the controlled substance, precursor and essential chemicals shall be identified when possible.

5.6.2 Solid Materials and Powders

5.6.2.1 Solid materials and powders shall be sampled and analyzed according to the [Drug Chemistry Section Technical Procedure for Drug Chemistry Analysis](#) and in accordance with the [Drug Chemistry Section Technical Procedure for Sampling](#).

5.6.2.2 Solids and powders that are likely inorganic in composition (example: iodine phosphorus) shall be transferred to the Trace Evidence Section of the Laboratory for identification.

5.6.2.2.1 In cases where the item of evidence is from a suspected red phosphorus/iodine methamphetamine lab and the substance appears to be reaction material, the Forensic Scientist shall analyze a portion of the material to determine if methamphetamine and/or (pseudo)ephedrine are also present and send a subsequent untested portion of the material to the Trace Evidence Section for elemental analysis, when sample size allows.

- A sub-item shall be created for the portion of the material being transferred to the Trace Evidence Section for analysis and all evidence transfers shall be recorded in the FA System.

5.6.2.2.2 In cases where phosphorus is identified in an item of evidence, the Forensic Scientist shall document the color of the item in the FA worksheet.

5.6.3 Liquid Samples

5.6.3.1 The pH of liquid samples prior to analysis and total volume of liquid found at the clandestine laboratory site shall be recorded in the FA worksheet.

5.6.3.2 If bi-layered or multi-layered liquids are present, each layer will be sampled and analyzed separately. The Forensic Scientist shall thoroughly document the physical appearance of each layer as well as the location of each layer relative to others.

5.6.3.3 The density of analyzed liquid samples shall be determined in order to calculate the total weight of liquid present at the clandestine laboratory site.

5.6.3.3.1 Example: Total volume of liquid at the clandestine laboratory site = 250 mL. A 3.00 mL sample of the liquid was placed on the balance upon return to the lab, resulting in a mass of 2.60

grams. The chemical analysis of the liquid revealed methamphetamine. What is the total weight of the liquid containing methamphetamine found at the site?

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Density} &= \text{mass/volume} \\ &= 2.60 \text{ g}/3.00 \text{ mL} \\ &= 0.86 \text{ g/mL}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,
 $0.86 \text{ g/mL} \times 250 \text{ mL} = 215 \text{ g}$ of liquid containing methamphetamine

5.6.3.3.2 The total weight of liquid found at the clandestine laboratory site shall be reported on the Laboratory Report as: “X grams of liquid containing [substance]” followed by the regulatory status of the substance.

- Example: Continuing from above, the sample would be reported as “215 grams of liquid containing Methamphetamine – Schedule II.”

5.6.3.4 The miscibility of liquid samples shall be determined using either water or a water insoluble solvent such as chloroform or hexane and recorded in the FA worksheet.

5.7 Technical Field Assistance (TFA) Reports

5.7.1 The TFA report (Long Form TFA generated in the FA System) shall describe the clandestine laboratory site searched, the date and time of the search, who was present at the clandestine laboratory site, and list the chemicals and equipment found at the clandestine laboratory site that are consistent with the manufacture of a controlled substance.

5.7.2 A qualifying statement about each item, where applicable, shall be included along with that item’s regulatory status.

5.7.3 Items seized for Laboratory analysis shall be labeled as such including the corresponding Laboratory item number (in bold type font).

5.7.4 For items of (pseudo)ephedrine, the total grams or milligrams of (pseudo)ephedrine shall be listed after each container or unit described, based upon the total number of tablets and the strength of each tablet.

5.7.4.1 Example:
Sudafed 12-hr Extended Release
One box (intact) containing a total of 20 tablets
Pseudoephedrine HCl, 120 mg per tablet
2.4 g (2440 mg) pseudoephedrine HCl total

5.7.5 A “Summary” section shall be added to the TFA report and include the following:

5.7.5.1 The method of manufacture of the controlled substance and precursor chemicals if applicable.

5.7.5.2 The total grams of (pseudo)ephedrine present at the clandestine laboratory site shall be listed along with the total grams of methamphetamine that could be produced based on a 100 % yield (see Section Files for Printable versions).

5.7.5.2.1 100 % theoretical yield calculation for methamphetamine (meth) HCl from (pseudo)ephedrine(PSE) HCl

Molecular weight of (pseudo)ephedrine HCl = 201.7 g/mol
Molecular weight of methamphetamine HCl = 185.7 g/mol

$$\frac{201.7 \text{ g/mol PSE HCl}}{\# \text{ g PSE HCl at Site}} = \frac{185.7 \text{ g/mol methamphetamine HCl}}{\text{X g of methamphetamine HCl}}$$

$$\text{X g of meth HCl} = \frac{(\# \text{g PSE HCl at site})(185.7 \text{ g/mol meth HCl})}{201.7 \text{ g/mol PSE HCl}}$$

5.7.5.2.2 The Forensic Scientist shall clearly differentiate when calculating percent yield between items involving pseudoephedrine HCl versus pseudoephedrine sulfate.

5.7.5.2.3 100 % theoretical yield calculation for methamphetamine (meth) HCl from (pseudo)ephedrine (PSE) sulfate

molecular weight of PSE SO₄ = 28.5 g/mol
1 mol PSE SO₄ = 2 mol meth HCl
molecular weight PSE HCl = 201.7 g/mol
1 mol PSE HCl = 1 mol meth HCl
molecular weight of PSE HCl = 185.7 g/mol

$$\frac{428.5 \text{ g/mol PSE SO}_4}{\# \text{ g PSE SO}_4 \text{ at Site}} = \frac{(2 \text{ mol meth HCl})}{1 \text{ mol PSE SO}_4} \times \frac{185.7 \text{ g/mol meth HCl}}{\text{X g of meth HCl}}$$

$$\text{Xg of meth HCl} = \frac{(\# \text{g (pseudo) SO}_4 \text{ at site})(2 \text{ mol meth HCl}/1 \text{ mol (PSE SO}_4)(185.7 \text{ g/mol meth HCl})}{428.5 \text{ g/mol (pseudo)ephedrine SO}_4}$$

5.7.6 A “Seizure of Evidence” section shall be added to the TFA report and shall include the numbers of Laboratory item(s) seized for analysis, the location of the State Crime Laboratory at which the evidence is being processed, and the Laboratory case number.

5.7.7 A “Hazardous Waste” section shall be added at the end of the Long TFA report and shall include the date and disposition of the chemicals and equipment not seized for evidence during the clandestine laboratory site search.

5.8 Return and/or Destruction of Clandestine Laboratory Evidence

5.8.1 Solids and powders (with the exception of reaction material, red phosphorus, and iodine crystals) shall be returned to the requesting agency.

5.8.2 Liquid samples shall be retained for sixty days if no other disposition is requested by the requesting agency. After the sixty day period these samples shall be destroyed, pursuant to the search warrant from the site search.

5.8.2.1 The Forensic Scientist shall complete the [Verification Review for the Destruction of Evidence](#) form and scan a signed copy into the Case Record Object Repository in the FA System. (See Section Files for Printable version.)

5.8.2.2 Evidence shall be destroyed according to the State Crime Laboratory Hazardous Waste Management Program as outlined in the [State Crime Laboratory Safety Manual](#).

5.8.2.2.1 The Forensic Scientist shall coordinate his/her schedule with the Drug Chemistry Section Safety Officer for the collection of samples to be destroyed.

5.8.3 Technical Field Assistance (Long Form TFA) Reports shall be “Transferred Out” in the FA System with a comment stating that the TFA is a report only and has no evidence associated with it. A copy of the TFA report shall be included with a copy of the Laboratory Report to be returned to the Evidence Control Unit and subsequently the requesting agency.

5.9 **Calculations** – See **5.7.5**.

5.10 **Uncertainty of Measurement** - N/A

6.0 **Limitations** - N/A

7.0 **Safety** - See the [State Crime Laboratory Safety Manual](#).

8.0 **References** - N/A

9.0 **Records**

- FA System Case files
- Clandestine Laboratory Response Form
- Verification Review for the Destruction of Evidence
- Yield Calculations Methamphetamine HCl from (Pseudo)ephedrine HCl
- Yield Calculations Methamphetamine HCl from (Pseudo)ephedrine Sulfate

10.0 **Attachments** – N/A

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
09/17/2012	1	Original Document for conversion to ISO standards.