

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2019 DRUG CHEMISTRY WHITE BOX STUDY

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the reliability and validity of drug identification using various analytical techniques alone, and in combination, based on recommendations from the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG).

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

Only drug chemistry analysts that are *currently* conducting casework analyses. You should not participate if you are not currently performing drug chemistry analysis as part of your normal employment duties.

IS PARTICIPATION ANONYMOUS?

Reported results and findings will be completely anonymous. Individual results will not be disclosed to the participants or their employers, even if requested by the examiners.

WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO AND WHAT WILL BE MY TIME COMMITMENT?

If you agree to participate, your laboratory will be sent two sets of unknown materials over a six-month period and asked to analyze each material in the set with particular single or combinations of analytical techniques. You will be asked to provide the results of single techniques in the first set and your conclusions based on particular analytical schemes in the second set. Reported findings and results will be completely anonymized.

Your participation will last for the length of time it takes to examine the two sets of materials and to fill out an answer sheet and survey for each set.

WHERE WILL I SEND THE RESULTS?

Instructions for submitting results will be provided with the samples.

IF I'M ASKED TO USE A PARTICULAR TECHNIQUE, CAN I USE A SECOND ONE TO CONFIRM THE RESULT?

For each sample set, laboratories will be asked to use *particular techniques*, sometimes by themselves and sometimes as part of an analytical scheme. For the best evaluation possible, it is important that participant provide their results based *only on the requested techniques*. This study does not seek to evaluate whether a particular participants or laboratories provide a "wrong" result; it seeks to test the scientific capabilities of the techniques.

CAN I GET THE RESULTS OF HOW WELL I DO?

Individual results will not be disclosed to the participants or their employers, even if requested by the examiners. The study is designed in such a way as to prevent anyone from knowing or going back and connecting results with any analyst or laboratory.



WOULD YOU LIKE OTHER EXAMINERS IN MY LAB TO EXAMINE THE SAMPLES?

No. We do not want any sharing of samples or collaboration with other analysts in reaching a conclusion.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE BE USED?

The information you provide will be used to perform a statistical analysis in order to evaluate error rates among single analytical techniques and analytical technique schemes.

WILL I INCUR ANY COSTS FROM PARTICIPATING OR WILL I BE COMPENSATED?

Your laboratory may incur minimal costs in the form of any solvents/consumables required to complete the analyses. You will not be compensated for participating in this study.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

If you have other questions or need additional information, please contact Jeremy Triplett – (jeremy.triplett@ky.gov; 502-564-5230).