



SWGDRUG Bulletin

August 2018

The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) continues to provide tools and recommendations for the field of forensic seized drug chemistry. One recent area of emphasis has been on the validation of analytical methods and schemes. As seized drug chemists can analyze hundreds of different substances per year, with newly created substances being discovered every day, the challenge to provide methods and schemes that are fit for purpose and deliver unambiguous identifications is not one to be taken lightly. SWGDRUG is working to provide validation examples, based on defensible guidance, that laboratory personnel can customize and use to fulfill local jurisdictional requirements. Along with that, we are revising our validation and testing guidelines to ensure they remain relevant in the modern dynamic testing environment.

New Monographs Added Monthly

One of the most frequently used resources on the SWGDRUG site are the drug monographs. A major challenge in seized drugs is the availability of reliable instrumental data for new emerging drugs. The SWGDRUG monographs from the DEA Special Testing and Research Lab are based on structurally confirmed reference materials and are intended to be used for the verification of acquired reference materials. Monographs are being uploaded as they are technically reviewed and approved for publication.

SWGDRUG also provides links to externally published monographs, including from [Forensic Drug Review](#) and [The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education](#).

Documents out for Review, comments taken thru October

[Click here for pending drafts](#)

Revisions to the core SWGDRUG Recommendations Part IIIB-Methods of Analysis/Analytical Scheme for Identification of Drugs or Chemicals

[Click here for comments](#)

New Supplemental Document SD-7, in support of Part IIIB-Construction of an Analytical Scheme.

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Other Projects in the Works

- Landing page for opioid information, in cooperation with AAFS
- New Excel-based calculator for the estimation of measurement uncertainty for extrapolations of net weight and unit count, in support of Supplemental Document SD-6 on the same topic. [Coming soon here](#)