



SWGDRUG Bulletin

January 2025

The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) proudly supports the forensic seized-drug community by providing guidance and resources for a broad breadth of analytical and quality management challenges. The pace of change within our discipline has never been faster, and laboratories require steadfast improvement and adaptation to successfully address these dynamic issues.

Whether a laboratory is struggling to identify a novel psychoactive substance or develop a validation plan for a new piece of equipment to incorporate into their analytical suite, SWGDRUG works to be a steady resource for laboratories throughout the world. Scientists and laboratory managers can use SWGDRUG as a resource both on the bench and in the administration of the laboratory.

In 2024, SWGDRUG met in Arlington, Virginia to adjudicate public comments and wrap up revisions to multiple sections of the SWGDRUG Recommendations and SD-7 which were proposed in 2023.

We also started working on a number of exciting projects. If you have an idea for a topic you'd like for SWGDRUG to consider, please let us know. We know how challenging the job of a seized drug analyst can be, and we appreciate everyone who does this work for their community!



Newly Revised Documents in 2024!

- Revisions to the Core Recommendations v.8.2.
 - Part II—Education, Training, and Continuing Professional Development
 - Part IIIA—Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative Analysis
 - Part IIIB—Analytical Scheme for Identification of Drugs or Chemicals
 - Part IVB—Validation of Analytical Methods
 - Annex A—SWGDRUG Glossary of Terms and Definitions
- Revisions to Supplemental Document, SD-7, Construction of an Analytical Scheme



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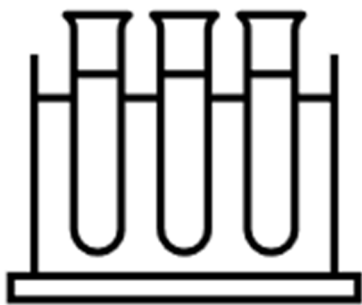
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New Outreach Efforts—SWGDRUG Webinars

SWGDRUG has begun hosting webinars for various topics within the seized-drug community. The first one of these webinar series took place in January 2024, focused on a virtual tour of the SWGDRUG website and orienting practitioners and management to the SWGDRUG Recommendations, Supplemental Documents, and the tools/resources available. The second series of webinars focused on the numerous types of mass spectrometers and how to apply the data produced in analytical schemes. Recordings are available at swgdrug.org.

Future webinar topics are currently being planned. If you have suggestions for future topics that you think might be a good fit for this platform, please let us know at swgdrug@dea.gov!

SWGDRUG representatives will also be delivering various presentations during the virtual **2025 Current Trends in Seized-Drugs Analysis Symposium**, hosted by the Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE). On Tuesday, January 14th, we will be covering multiple topics, such as an introduction to the categorization of analytical techniques, how to build an appropriate analytical scheme, and validation and verification of analytical methods. More details and registration info at cfsre.org.



Future Work

SWGDRUG has begun on several new projects:

- Cease-analysis Recommendations
- Recommendations for Compound Identification via Structural Elucidation
- How to Address Sampling Scenarios when Negative Results are Encountered

Other SWGDRUG Tools

- [Drug Monographs](#) (updated March 2024)
- [Mass Spectral Library](#) (update coming soon in early 2025)
- [Infrared Library](#) (Version 3.1 updated in May 2024)
- [Calculator for Extrapolation of Net Weight in Conjunction with a Hypergeometric Sampling Plan](#)
- [Question sets to be used as a resource and training tool](#)