



SWGDRUG Bulletin

December 2023

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.

One strength of SWGDRUG is the mix of long term members who provide vast institutional knowledge and context to modern issues serving alongside newer members who bring a fresh perspective to the challenges faced by seized drug chemists around the world. This year we said goodbye to our longest serving member, Mr. Richard Laing, who has been a committee member of SWGDRUG for 25 years. We wish Mr. Laing a very happy retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service!

In 2023, SWGDRUG met in Chicago to work on updating numerous sections of the Core Recommendations as well as the Supplemental Documents.

We encourage all members of the seized drug community to review and comment on the changes via the links below.

2023 SWGDRUG Meeting



[Documents out for public comment \(comments due 7 February 2024\)](#)

- 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

Archived Documents

- Archived Supplemental Document SD-2, for Part IVB—Validation of Analytical Methods **archived due to draft changes in Part IVB**

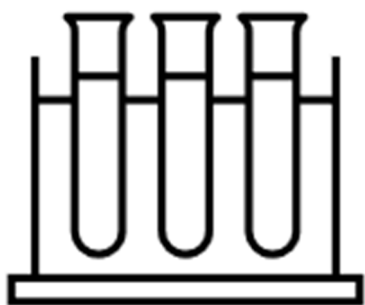


SWGDRUG Bulletin

December 2023

SWGDRUG Position Regarding Field-Portable and Miniaturized Instrumentation

With the rapid development of new field-portable and miniaturized instrumentation, SWGDRUG is working to address the incorporation of these instruments in analytical schemes. It is the position of SWGDRUG that, as with any analytical method, the use of field-portable and miniaturized instruments in analytical schemes must meet the SWGDRUG recommendations for training, quality control, method validation, documentation, and reporting. In addition, the data (e.g., chromatogram or spectrum) from the field-portable or miniaturized instrumentation must be included in the case file in a format that is reviewable to allow independent interpretation of the results by an expert without access to the instrument software. To this point, if the field-portable or miniaturized instrument does not provide the requisite selectivity as an analogous laboratory instrument that would otherwise be fit-for-purpose, it cannot be included in the same category within the analytical scheme as an analogous laboratory instrument, but may be included in the analytical scheme as a lesser category.



As a result of adjustments made due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many college and university students did not get the hands-on laboratory experience previously expected from higher educational institutions. As such, it may be advisable for laboratories to expand their training programs to incorporate more basic laboratory activities to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for future hires as they graduate and enter the workforce.

Other SWGDRUG Tools

- [Drug Monographs](#) (updated 14 November 2023)
- [Mass Spectral Library](#) (updated 30 June 2023)
- [Infrared Library](#) (updated 27 August 2019)
- [Calculator for Extrapolation of Net Weight in Conjunction with a Hypergeometric Sampling Plan](#)
- [Question sets to be used as a resource and training tool](#)