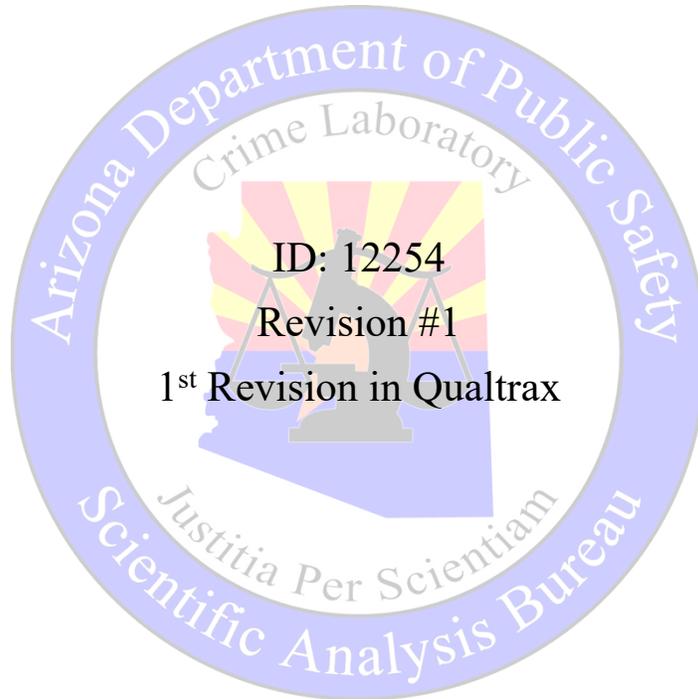


Arizona Department of Public Safety

Scientific Analysis Bureau

Laboratory Field Drug Testing Program



Issuing Authority:
SAB Superintendent

Effective Date: 09/04/2018



Laboratory Field Drug Testing Program

ID: 12254

1st Revision in Qualtrax

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While the Scientific Analysis Bureau has a controlled substances backlog of cases greater than 30 days old, a responsible approach to case processing must be used. Field testing is used throughout the laboratory system to maintain a reasonable turnaround time and make good use of the State’s resources. The laboratory field testing program is intended for filing charges only. If the case proceeds to trial, a full analysis must be performed.

This program operates outside of the scope of accreditation.

1 Controlled Substances cases will be field tested according to the following guidelines:

1.1 Analysts performing field test analysis must be proficient in Controlled Substance analysis and must complete Field Test/TruNarc training.

1.2 Field Testing Eligibility

Evidence from both DPS and outside agencies is eligible for laboratory field testing. For a list of agencies exempt from laboratory field testing, consult the regional Controlled Substances supervisor.

1.3 Drugs Tested in Field Testing Program

The laboratory field testing program is limited to: methamphetamine, cocaine, cocaine base, heroin, cannabis and marijuana. At a minimum one item of marijuana and one dangerous and/or narcotic drug item, if present, will be tested.

1.4 Methamphetamine, Cocaine and Cocaine Base Field Testing

Methamphetamine, cocaine and cocaine base shall be tested via TruNarc.

- A positive field test for the purpose of this program is a TruNarc screen identifying a single drug via a direct scan.
- A performance check must be done prior to each sample scan.
- A mixture result (more than one drug displayed on the instrument’s result screen) shall be deemed inconclusive for the purpose of this program.
- An example: “heroin and methamphetamine” result is inconclusive.
- Any result other than methamphetamine, cocaine or cocaine base on TruNarc shall be deemed inconclusive for the purpose of this program.

1.5 Heroin Field Testing

Heroin shall be tested via two color tests, Froehde and Marquis.

- Both tests must be positive as described in the Technical Information for Controlled Substances Analysis for the field test to be considered positive.
- Each item requires a new blank for each color test performed.

1.6 Marijuana and Cannabis Field Testing

Marijuana and cannabis shall be tested via Duquenois-Levine color test.



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- Visual exam and analyst’s experience will distinguish between marijuana and cannabis.
- Plant material that does not appear consistent with marijuana (i.e. spice, tobacco) is not to be field tested.
- Plants with roots attached are not eligible for field testing.
- For the purpose of this program, the Duquenois-Levine color test shall be performed on a non-extracted sample. No petroleum ether or acetonitrile extraction is allowed.
- The Duquenois-Levine color test must be positive as described in the Technical Information for Controlled Substances Analysis for the field test to be considered positive.
- Each item requires a new blank to be performed.

1.7 Tablets and liquids Field Testing

Tablets and liquids (other than cannabis) are not eligible for field testing.

1.8 Case notes

- A standardized note sheet shall be used.
- Each field tested item requires its own note sheet.

1.9 Evidence marking

- The outside packaging shall have a field test sticker attached with the following information: item number, date and field tester’s initials. The evidence must be properly sealed as defined in the SAB General Procedures Manual prior to returning it to Property.
- Each field tested item shall have a field test sticker, and the item must be properly sealed as defined in the SAB General Procedures Manual. A laboratory plastic bag with a heat-seal is recommended but an existing plastic bag can be used.
- Items not field tested do not need to be marked or sealed.

1.10 Weights

- Record the gross weight of the item and a brief description of what that weight includes i.e. multiple plastic bags, metal container etc.
- Weights are not included on the field test report.
- Any balance can be used; the Protocol for Determining Quantity does not apply to field test cases.

1.11 Usability

- For an item to be eligible for field testing, there must be enough material present such that the item will still be considered usable after the laboratory field testing has been completed.
- Usability must be on the note sheet and on the report.
- If an item is deemed not usable (i.e. residue), the field test should not be conducted.

1.12 Inconclusive field test result

- A single item case with an inconclusive field test result must proceed to full analysis.



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- In a case with multiple items (if suspected narcotic or dangerous drugs are present), inconclusive field test(s) can be reported providing there is at least one item with a positive narcotic or dangerous drug result.
- If all items are negative or inconclusive, the case must proceed to full analysis.

1.13 Case review

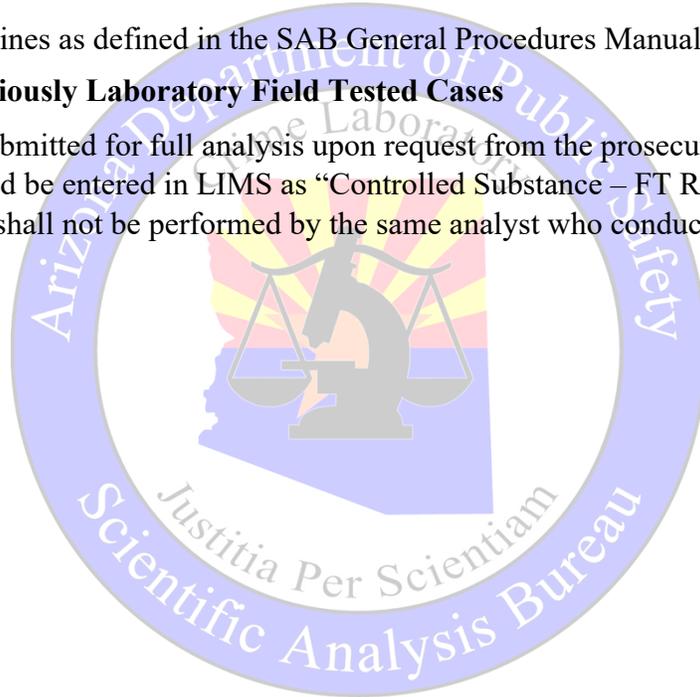
- Field test case files require only one review which will serve as both the technical and administrative review.
- Field test case review can be performed by any individual who completed the Field Test/TruNarc training.

1.14 Discrepancies

- Follow guidelines as defined in the SAB General Procedures Manual.

2 Full Analysis of Previously Laboratory Field Tested Cases

- Cases can be resubmitted for full analysis upon request from the prosecuting attorney’s office.
- The request should be entered in LIMS as “Controlled Substance – FT Resubmit”.
- The full analysis shall not be performed by the same analyst who conducted the field test.





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Appendix A. Revision History

Summary of Changes Made	Date	Issuing Authority
LFDTP Rev #1 1st version in Qualtrax New document, Bureau Order 2017-02	June 2018	SAB Superintendent

