

Clandestine Laboratory Analysis

Clandestine (clan) lab case samples may contain a variety of liquids, solids, pure reagents, reaction mixtures, extracts and waste chemicals.

Significance

The objective in analyzing evidence from suspected clandestine laboratories is to determine if controlled substances had been, are being, or could be manufactured, the synthetic route utilized, and the production capacity. Evidence from a clandestine drug laboratory may include controlled substances, precursors, chemical reagents, solvents, by-products, and chemical waste.

The most common seized drug manufactured in clandestine laboratories in Washington is methamphetamine. However, clandestine laboratories involved in the production of other controlled substances including, but not limited to, 3,4 - methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), methcathinone, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), phencyclidine (PCP), phenethylamines, tryptamines, and other seized drug analogs, may be encountered.

Collection & Packaging

Sample collection **MUST** be done by a qualified team.

The WSP Crime Lab has a team of chemists that are available to provide on-scene advice related to the clandestine manufacture of illicit substances. The chemists are available to provide advice related to safety, what samples to collect, type of process occurring, etc. The chemists are **not** available to collect and package evidence or to conduct a hazmat response within a scene.

If advice of a chemist is all that is needed, call the Crime Scene Response Team (CSRT) coordinator at (253) 255-3064 and request the assistance of a chemist.

If a full clan lab response by a qualified team is needed, contact WSP-SWAT.

Samples will normally be collected at the scene in duplicate to ensure that sufficient samples are available for reanalysis if required; therefore, only one sample vial set needs to be submitted to the crime lab for examination. Crime lab analysis of clan lab samples is intended to determine if drugs of abuse had been, are being, or could be manufactured, the synthetic route utilized, and the production capacity. Always overpack samples and include absorbent material when packaging liquid samples, in case of spillage during transit.

Contact your local Crime Laboratory for additional information related to clandestine laboratory sample collection and packaging.

Submission

- Do not submit propane tanks suspected to have been filled with anhydrous ammonia. Contact your local Crime Laboratory or WSP-SWAT for information on preliminary testing and documentation. Disposal information can be obtained from the Department of Ecology.
- **Disposal of Seized drugs:** The crime laboratory does not destroy or dispose of any clandestine laboratory evidence, even if it is determined not to contain a controlled substance or element of drug manufacturing. All submitted evidence—except that which was consumed in the analysis—will be returned to the submitting agency.