

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **2023 SEIZED DRUG WHITE BOX STUDY**

#### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?**

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the performance of seized drug analytical schemes that follow ASTM 2329-17. Your participation will help determine the efficacy of analytical schemes used by seized drug chemists.

#### **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?**

Forensic science service providers (FSSPs) that are *currently* using analytical schemes that follow ASTM 2329-17 to perform seized drug analyses. You should not participate if you are not currently performing seized drug chemistry analyses as part of your normal laboratory duties.

#### **IS PARTICIPATION ANONYMOUS?**

Reported results and findings will be completely anonymous. Individual results will not be disclosed to the participants or their employers, even if requested by the examiners.

#### **WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO AND WHAT WILL BE MY TIME COMMITMENT?**

If you agree to participate, your laboratory will be sent a set of eight unknown samples consisting of approximately 100 mg of powder and asked to analyze each sample using your routine analytical scheme that follows ASTM 2329-17. You will be asked to provide conclusions based on the specific analytical scheme chosen for each sample in the set. Reported findings and results will be completely anonymized.

#### **WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE SAMPLES**

The FTCOE plans to send sample sets to participants in late September 2023.

#### **WHEN DO THE ANALYSES NEED TO BE COMPLETED?**

You will be requested to complete the analyses and fill out an answer sheet and survey within 2 months of receiving the sample set.

#### **WHERE WILL I SEND THE RESULTS?**

Instructions for submitting results will be provided with the samples.

#### **HOW MANY TESTS CAN MY ANALYTICAL SCHEME CONTAIN?**

There is no required number of tests that your analytical scheme must contain. However, your scheme must follow the ASTM 2329-17 minimum identification requirements and should be selected using the same criteria you would use in regular casework.

#### **CAN I GET THE RESULTS OF HOW WELL I DO?**

Individual results will not be disclosed to the participants or their employers, even if requested by the examiners. The study is designed in such a way as to prevent anyone from knowing or going back and connecting results with any analyst or laboratory.

#### **HOW DO I RECEIVE THE SAMPLES?**

Your agency will need to fill out a DEA-222 form to request the samples. Study staff will contact you directly with detailed instructions for filling out this form.

**WOULD YOU LIKE OTHER EXAMINERS IN MY LAB TO EXAMINE THE SAMPLES?**

No. We do not want any sharing of samples or collaboration with other analysts in reaching a conclusion.

**HOW WILL THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE BE USED?**

The information you provide will be used to perform a statistical analysis to evaluate the error rates of ASTM 2329-17 analytical schemes.

**WILL I INCUR ANY COSTS FROM PARTICIPATING OR WILL I BE COMPENSATED?**

Your laboratory may incur minimal costs in the form of any solvents/consumables required to complete the analyses. You will not be compensated for participating in this study.

**WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?**

If you have other questions or need additional information, please contact Megan Grabenauer, [mgrabenauer@rti.org](mailto:mgrabenauer@rti.org).