

## Controlled Substances Unit FAQ's

**Q. What if DNA or latent print examination is also needed on the packaging containing the controlled substance items?**

**A.** The original packaging should be separated and individually packaged prior to submission to the crime laboratory unless it is unreasonable to do so. For efficient and timely analysis, it is important to place these items in separate containers for submission to each unit.

**Q. When should evidence be submitted to the laboratory?**

**A.** Evidence should be submitted as soon as a pretrial and/or trial date has been set. This should be at least one month prior to the trial date to allow the laboratory time to complete analysis. For cases in which results are needed prior to charging or needed for investigational purposes, please submit evidence as soon as possible.

**Q. Can syringes, drug paraphernalia, and residue items be submitted to the Controlled Substances Unit (CSU) for analysis?**

**A.** These items may be submitted if they are the only item in the case and/or if their analysis is imperative to the case investigation. The CSU will work one item per substance type. If other weighable amounts of controlled substances are present in the case, please **do not** submit these items.

**Q. Should a field test be performed on residue items?**

**A.** No. In cases with residual amounts that are required to be analyzed, material should be conserved for laboratory analysis.

**Q. Are there field test kits available for synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones?**

**A.** There are field tests kits currently marketed that may detect these compounds. However, due to the large and always increasing number of synthetic compounds these tests will not react with many of the currently seen compounds. Additionally, as with all field tests, there may be false positives. To conclusively determine if the item contains a controlled substance, it must be submitted to the crime laboratory for analysis.

**Q. Who should be contacted regarding a suspected clandestine laboratory?**

**A.** Clandestine laboratories involve many safety hazards and dangers. Any time a clandestine laboratory, including a "one-pot" methamphetamine lab, is suspected, you should immediately contact your local DCI field office ([DCI contact information](#)). Besides the many safety hazards, failure to properly handle a clandestine laboratory site may violate OSHA and DNR regulations. **Never enter a suspected clandestine laboratory site or handle possible clandestine laboratory chemicals unless you are a certified clandestine laboratory responder.**

**Q. What should be submitted in a case involving numerous items, large plant grows, etc.?**

**A.** Please discuss the case with the prosecuting attorney prior to submission and determine which items are necessary for analysis. Only submit these items. Consideration should be given to statutory weight limits/plant counts and sampling methods that will lead to a successful prosecution and limit the analytical time required. With respect to marijuana grows where plants are of sufficient size, it is recommended to sample 1-2 grams of dried plant material and package separately for submission. Contact your area CSU with any questions regarding submission of these items.

**Q. How should liquid evidence be packaged?**

**A.** Use a container appropriate for liquids. If the original container is sufficient to contain the liquid and prevent any leakage, it may be utilized with additional secondary packaging such as a plastic bag or metal can. Never put liquids directly into a metal can.

**Q. Should pharmaceutical tablets/products be submitted for analysis?**

**A.** Controlled pharmaceuticals under Wisconsin Statute 961 can be submitted for complete analysis. Prescription pharmaceuticals that will be charged under Wisconsin Statute 450 should not be submitted for analysis.

**Q. Can you detect psilocybin or psilocin in mushroom spores?**

**A.** No. Do not submit items suspected to contain mushroom spores or grow media that has not developed mature mushrooms. These items rarely contain detectable amounts of psilocin or psilocybin. Harvest and fully dry any mature mushrooms for submission to the laboratory.

