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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

GUIDE FOR TRACING SEIZED NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

PROPOSALS OF BEST PRACTICES FOR CHEMICAL TRACEABILITY

CONSOLIDATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE TRACING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN THE PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, BASED ON THE WORK DONE BY THE EXPERT GROUPS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN JUNE 2012

The countries that participated in this group were Peru (coordination), Mexico, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dominican Republic.

By mutual agreement they stated that this document would not constitute a legal instrument with obligations for the member states, and would not eliminate, limit, or restrict existing control systems.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Concept

Chemical traceability basically consists of the identification of the “chemical profile” of the narcotics or psychotropic substances seized, confiscated, caught, held, or taken from someone who has them illegally, in order to identify the type, quality, and quantity of chemical substances they contain.

B. Problems

1. Most of the narcotics and psychotropic substances in world drug trafficking are obtained from processing with controlled chemical substances, but criminal organizations circumvent the control systems by using alternative chemical substances that are not controlled.
2. Formulas for illicit production of narcotics and psychotropic substances are not uniform, but often are common to specific groups or geographical areas, so the components of these narcotics and psychotropic substances can “characterize” their production, revealing their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or the responsible criminal group.
3. The variety of methods and forms of production makes it impossible to quantify the chemical substances and raw materials used in the production of narcotics and psychotropic substances, and to calculate the production of narcotics and psychotropic substances; therefore, the estimates are often arbitrary.

C. Legal Basis

1. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.
2. Model Regulations for the Control of Precursors and Chemical Substances

II. BEST PRACTICES

A. Objective

This document as a proposal of best practices for “chemical traceability” through analysis of the narcotics or psychotropic substances seized, confiscated, caught, held, or taken by competent authority from someone who has them illegally, in order to obtain information through technical and scientific instruments regarding:

1. The type, quality, and quantity of narcotic or psychotropic substance studied.
2. The percentage of active alkaloids and principles.
3. The type, quality, and quantity of residual chemical substances present.
4. The level of impurities and presence of cutting or adulterating agents.

B. Purpose

1. To determine the chemical composition of the narcotics and psychotropic substances, in order to implement control mechanisms for the substances used to make them.
2. To characterize the narcotics and psychotropic substances to determine their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group in order to adopt measures, make forecasts, or use them in court.
3. To quantify the chemical substances and their relation to the raw material, in order to estimate or calculate the production potential.

C. Steps

This document describes the following steps that the member states can take to adopt the mechanisms, measures, and projections, in accordance with each country’s domestic legislation and needs:

1. **Pre-operational phase**
 - a. Implementation of legislation to standardize procedures for chemical traceability.
 - b. Implementation of sampling systems and methodologies with the assistance of professionals from the country or from abroad, seeking international cooperation where necessary.
 - c. Implementation of laboratories with the capacity to do chemical traceability analysis, or a decision to use local or international third-party installations.
2. **Operational phase**
 - a. Development of analytical procedures from the perspective of chemical traceability.
 - b. Obtaining the information, processing it, and organizing it.
3. **Post-operational phase**
 - a. Delivery of results obtained to the application authorities.

b. Use of the information by the competent authority.

D. Recommended Action

Preparation of a project for chemical traceability, to be executed in the Operational Phase (APPENDIX 01)

APPENDIX 01

General objective of the project	Chemical profiling of the narcotics or psychotropic substances seized, confiscated, caught, held, or taken by competent authority from someone who has them illegally.		
Specific objectives of the project	Objective 1	To determine the chemical composition of the narcotics and psychotropic substances, in order to implement control mechanisms for the substances used to make them.	
	Objective 2	To characterize the narcotics and psychotropic substances to determine their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group in order to adopt measures, make forecasts, or use them in court.	
	Objective 3	To quantify the chemical substances and their relation to the raw material, in order to estimate or calculate the production potential.	
Results expected in the project	Objective 1 To determine the chemical composition of the narcotics and psychotropic substances, in order to implement control mechanisms for the substances used to make them		
	Result 1.1.	Identification of the chemical substances and raw material used in the illegal manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances.	
	Objective 2: To characterize the narcotics and psychotropic substances to determine their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group in order to adopt measures, make forecasts, or use them in court.		
	Result 2.1	Identification of the type, quality, and quantity of the chemical substances used in the illegal manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances, classifying them by their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group.	
	Result 2.2	Organization of the information obtained, classifying it by nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group.	
	Objective 3 To quantify the chemical substances and their relation to the raw material, in order to estimate or calculate the production potential.		
Result 3.1	Interpolation of the estimated quantity of chemical substances and raw materials used for the illegal manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances, to estimate or calculate the production potential.		
Expected results	Actions	Monitoring indicators	External factors that could affect the project's execution
Objective 1 To determine the chemical composition of the narcotics and psychotropic substances			
Result 1.1. Identification of the chemical substances and raw material used in the illegal manufacture of narcotics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form the team responsible for the research 2. Present the research profile to the competent authorities for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of professional chemists • Report of meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation of coordinators or responsible parties.

and psychotropic substances.	3. Select the professional(s) or person(s) who will take the sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of professional chemists. 	
	4. Hold training workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on the workshops 	
	5. Select site and date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justification 	
	6. Procure materials and implements for taking the sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of materials required for sampling Purchase order Delivery receipt Invoices and/or receipts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of management capacity for procurement Limitations on financial resources by category
	7. Select the sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of samples 	
	8. Packing of samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of samples packed and labeled 	
	9. Sign internal or external agreements or contracts for proper shipment of samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering this action irrelevant
	10. Delivery of the samples to the specified laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waybill of transmission and receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impossibility of delivery

Objective 2 To characterize the narcotics and psychotropic substances to determine their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group.

Result 2.1 Identification of the type, quality, and quantity of the chemical substances used in the illegal manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances, classifying them by their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group.	11. Receive the results of the laboratory analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay in sending the samples
	12. Analyze the results and describe them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the type, quality, and quantity of the chemical substances used Report on classification by their nature and chemical composition, territorial origin, or responsible criminal group 	

Objective 3 To quantify the chemical substances and their relation to the raw material, in order to estimate or calculate the production potential

Result 3.1 Interpolation of the estimated quantity of chemical substances and raw materials used for the illegal manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances, to estimate or calculate the production potential	13. Development of dynamic statistical estimates by specialists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General report for the authorities Report for personnel who make seizures Report for the general public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turnover of the responsible personnel
	14. Sharing of results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops 	
	15. Publication of results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay in publication of the results

Work plan and timeline	Actions/Months	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1. Form the team responsible for the research	x					

	2. Present the research profile to the competent authorities for approval	x					
	3. Select the professional(s) or person(s) who will take the sample	x					
	4. Hold training workshops	x	x				
	5. Select site and date	x	x				
	6. Procure materials and implements for taking the sample	x					
	7. Select the sample		x	x			
	8. Packing of samples		x	x			
	9. Sign internal or external agreements or contracts for proper shipment of samples		x				
	10. Delivery of the samples to the specified laboratory			x			
	11. Receive the results of the laboratory analysis				x		
	12. Analyze the results and describe them				x		
	13. Development of dynamic statistical estimates by specialists.				x		
	14. Sharing of results					x	x
	15. Publication of results						x

BUDGET					
Item (explain briefly)	Units /cost per unit	Financing requested from the project	Local financing (COUNTRY) FOREIGN CURRENCY	Other external financing (other institutions or agencies) FOREIGN CURRENCY	Total Financing FOREIGN CURRENCY
Human resources					
01 technical team (consisting of 3 professional chemists)	\$\$\$ x 3 professionals x 6 months				
10 professionals or assistant chemical experts (half time)	\$\$\$ x 10 professionals or chemical experts x 5 months				
2. Payments for services (include travel costs)					

Procurement of materials and implements for taking the sample	Kit composed of bags, labels, glass receptacles, plastic bottles, adhesive tape, spatulas, disposable spoons, markers				
3 workshops on standards for taking samples and wrapping samples					
Technical Director or external adviser					
Travel for gathering samples					
Certification of secondary standards to be used as a reference point					
Transfer of samples to the laboratory (travel and per diem)					
Administrative expenses					
Multidisciplinary technical meetings to share the results					
Writing, design, and editing of the report					
Publication of the report					
Subtotal 2 – Payments for services					
3. Other expenses					
Contingencies					
Subtotal 3 – Other expenses					
TOTAL BUDGET					
Subtotal 1 – Human resources					
Subtotal 2 – Payments for services					
Subtotal 3 – Other expenses					
TOTAL BUDGET OF THE PROJECT					