

# LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU

Document: Controlled Substances Analysis Manual	Policy Number: 1556	Revision: 4
Subject: CS-SOP-55 Chemical Tests for Controlled Substances	Approved: Bell, Erica	
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## 1. CHEMICAL TESTS FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

A. The chemical tests described below are the same tests listed in the monographs for controlled substances.

Chemical Test	Procedure
Chen's	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 2% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Add 1-2 drops of 0.5% CuSO<sub>4</sub>. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Diethylpropion, ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, methcathinone</p> <p>References: 13</p>
Cobalt Nitrate	<p>Add 1-2 drops of 1% Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in methanol to dried sample. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: gamma-Hydroxybutyrate</p> <p>References: 12</p>
Cobalt Thiocyanate	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 2% Co(SCN)<sub>2</sub> and 1-2 drops of chloroform. Observe color extracted into chloroform. If no color is extracted into chloroform and sample is suspected cocaine base, add 1-2 drops of 0.1 N HCl. Observe color extracted into chloroform.</p> <p>Test for: Cocaine, cocaine base, ketamine, meperidine, methadone, methylphenidate, PCP analogs, phencyclidine, propoxyphene, propylhexedrine</p> <p>References: 1, 4, 7</p>
Cobalt Thiocyanate solid	<p>Place approximately 1 milliliter of liquid sample in a test tube. Add approximately 0.5 milliliter of chloroform. Vortex. Allow to separate and remove chloroform, (bottom layer). Be careful not to transfer the aqueous layer. Add a few drops of chloroform layer to a spot plate. Add a small amount of solid Co(SCN)<sub>2</sub>. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: <math>\gamma</math>-Hydroxybutyrolactone</p> <p>References: 15</p>

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Dille-Koppanyi	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 5% isopropylamine in methanol. Add 1-2 of 1% of Co(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in methanol. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Barbiturates, glutethimide</p> <p>References: 1</p>
Duquenois	<p>Add 1-2 drops of duquenois reagent to previously identified marijuana or cannabis sample. Add 1-2 drops of conc. HCl. Observe color change. Add 1-2 drops of chloroform. Mix. Observe color extracted into chloroform.</p> <p>Test for: Marijuana, hashish, hash oil</p> <p>References: 2, 5, 6, 13</p>
Ferric Chloride	<p>Add 1-2 drops of 5% FeCl<sub>3</sub> to dried sample. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: <math>\gamma</math>-Hydroxybutyrate</p> <p>References: 12, 13</p>
Froehde's	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Froehde's reagent. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Codeine, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, mescaline, morphine, opium, oxycodone, PMA, PMMA, peyote, propoxyphene, 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (STP)</p> <p>References: 4, 13</p>
Furfuraldehyde	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Dissolve sample in ethanol. Place 1 drop of the sample solution on a small piece of filter paper. Add 1 drop of 10% furfuraldehyde in ethanol. Expose the filter paper to conc. hydrochloric acid fumes for 2 to 3 minutes.</p> <p>Test for: Meprobamate</p> <p>References: 2</p>
Gold Bromide in H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /HOAc	<p>Place sample on a microscope slide. Add 1 drop of 2:1 HOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O. Add 1 drop of AuBr<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Scratch the surface of the slide. Observe crystals.</p> <p>Test for: Propoxyphene</p> <p>References: 4</p>
Liebermann's	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Liebermann's reagent. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Amphetamine, anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines, bufotenine, cathine, cocaine, codeine, diethylpropion, ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, glutethimide, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, ketamine, lysergic acid, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, meperidine, mescaline, methadone, methamphetamine, methaqualone, methcathinone, methylphenidate, morphine, N,N-dimethylamphetamine, N-ethylamphetamine, opium, oxycodone, PMA, PMMA,</p>

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	<p>peyote, phencyclidine, phentermine, propoxyphene, 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (STP) References: 2, 13</p>
Marquis	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and 1-2 drops of formaldehyde solution. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Amphetamine, benzodiazepines, bufotenine, cathine, codeine, flunitrazepam, glutethimide, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, lysergic acid, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, meperidine, mescaline, methamphetamine, morphine, N,N-dimethylamphetamine, N-ethylamphetamine, opium, oxycodone, oxymorphone, peyote, phentermine, propoxyphene, 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (STP), 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine References: 1, 2, 13</p>
Mecke's	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Mecke's reagent. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Bufotenine, codeine, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, mescaline, morphine, opium, oxycodone, PMA, PMMA, peyote, propoxyphene, 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (STP) References: 4</p>
Mercuric Chloride	<p>Place sample on a microscope slide. Add 1 drop of 10% HCl. Add 1 drop of 10% HgCl<sub>2</sub>. Scratch the surface of the slide. Observe crystals.</p> <p>Test for: Propoxyphene References: 11</p>

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Resorcinol	<p>Place sample in a test tube. Add water and mix. Add a small amount of resorcinol. Basify with 10% NaOH. Shake. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Chloral hydrate References: 8</p>
Silver Nitrate	<p>Place sample in a test tube. Add methanol to non-liquid samples. Add 1-2 drops of 5% silver nitrate. Observe yellow ppt. Add 1-2 drops of conc. nitric acid. Ppt. should not dissolve.</p> <p>Test for: Iodine References: 9</p>
Sodium Nitroprusside	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 2% <math>\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3</math>. Add 1-2 drops of 1% sodium nitroprusside. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: MDEA, MDMA, methamphetamine, methylphenidate, N-ethylamphetamine, PMA, phentermine, propylhexadrene References: 10</p>
Starch	<p>Place sample in a test tube. Add methanol to solid samples. Add 1-2 drops of 1% starch. Observe color change. If no color change occurs, add 1 drop of conc. nitric acid. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Iodine References: 9</p>
Sulfuric Acid	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of conc. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Anabolic steroids, cathine, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine References: 2, 13</p>

Van Urk's	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1 drop of Van Urk's solution. Observe color change.</p> <p>Alternative procedure: Place a piece of untreated Whatman #1 chromatography paper in spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Van Urk's solution. Place sample to the moist paper. Observe color change. May require evaporation of the solution.</p> <p>Test For: Bufotenine, LSD, lysergic acid, psilocyn/psilocybin References: 2, 13</p>
Van Urk's	<p>Place 1 drop of methanol in a spot plate. Add 1 drop of 50% <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. Place one piece of Van Urk's treated paper in well so that paper absorbs liquid. Add sample to the moist paper. Observe color change.</p>

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	Test for: Bufotenine, LSD, lysergic acid, psilocyn/psilocybin References: 2, 13
Wagner's	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 0.1 N HCl. Add 1-2 drops of Wagner's reagent. Observe brown ppt.  Test for: Cocaine, ketamine, PCP analogs, phencyclidine References: 1
Weber	Place ground fungal sample in spot plate. Add 2-3 drops of 0.1% Fast Blue B Salt solution. Observe color change. If red color develops, add 1-2 drops concentrated HCl. Sample will change from red to dark blue if psilocyn is present.  Test for: psilocyn. Reference: 17

B. Reference list:

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