

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

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM

Page 1 of 6

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% Na₂CO₃. Add 1-2 drops of 0.5% CuSO₄. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: Diethylpropion, ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, methcathinone References: 13</p>
Cobalt Nitrate	<p>Add 1-2 drops of 1% Co(NO₃)₂ in methanol to dried sample. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: gamma-Hydroxybutyrate References: 12</p>
Cobalt Thiocyanate	<p>Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 2% Co(SCN)₂ 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 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)₂. Observe color change.</p> <p>Test for: γ-Hydroxybutyrolactone References: 15</p>

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

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM

Page 2 of 6

Dille-Koppanyi	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 5% isopropylamine in methanol. Add 1-2 of 1% of Co(C ₂ H ₃ O ₂) ₂ in methanol. Observe color change. Test for: Barbiturates, glutethimide References: 1
Duquenois	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. Test for: Marijuana, hashish, hash oil References: 2, 5, 6, 13
Ferric Chloride	Add 1-2 drops of 5% FeCl ₃ to dried sample. Observe color change. Test for: γ-Hydroxybutyrate References: 12, 13
Froehde's	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Froehde's reagent. Observe color change. Test for: Codeine, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, mescaline, morphine, opium, oxycodone, PMA, PMMA, peyote, propoxyphene, 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (STP) References: 4, 13
Furfuraldehyde	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. Test for: Meprobamate References: 2
Gold Bromide in H ₂ SO ₄ /HOAc	Place sample on a microscope slide. Add 1 drop of 2:1 HOAc/H ₂ O. Add 1 drop of AuBr ₃ in H ₂ SO ₄ . Scratch the surface of the slide. Observe crystals. Test for: Propoxyphene References: 4
Liebermann's	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of Liebermann's reagent. Observe color change. 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,

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

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM

Page 3 of 6

	<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. H₂SO₄ 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% HgCl₂. Scratch the surface of the slide. Observe crystals.</p> <p>Test for: Propoxyphene References: 11</p>

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

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM

Page 4 of 6

Resorcinol	Place sample in a test tube. Add water and mix. Add a small amount of resorcinol. Basify with 10% NaOH. Shake. Observe color change. Test for: Chloral hydrate References: 8
Silver Nitrate	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. Test for: Iodine References: 9
Sodium Nitroprusside	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of 2% Na ₂ CO ₃ . Add 1-2 drops of 1% sodium nitroprusside. Observe color change. Test for: MDEA, MDMA, methamphetamine, methylphenidate, N-ethylamphetamine, PMA, phentermine, propylhexadrine References: 10
Starch	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. Test for: Iodine References: 9
Sulfuric Acid	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1-2 drops of conc. H ₂ SO ₄ . Observe color change. Test for: Anabolic steroids, cathine, MDA, MDEA, MDMA, MMDA, 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine References: 2, 13

Van Urk's	Place sample in a spot plate. Add 1 drop of Van Urk's solution. Observe color change. 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. Test For: Bufotenine, LSD, lysergic acid, psilocyn/psilocybin References: 2, 13
Van Urk's	Place 1 drop of methanol in a spot plate. Add 1 drop of 50% H ₂ SO ₄ . 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.

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

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM

Page 5 of 6

	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:

- (1) Jungreis, E., Spot Test Analysis Clinical, Environmental, Forensic, and Geochemical Applications, Vol. 75, John Wiley & Sons, 1985.
- (2) Moffat, A. C., (ed.), Clarke's Isolation and Identification of Drugs, 2nd Ed., The Pharmaceutical Press, London, 1986
- (3) Cunniff, P., (ed.), Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 16th Ed., AOAC International, Gaithersburg, MD, 1997, Vol. 1, Chapter 18.
- (4) Fulton, C. C., (ed.), Modern Microcrystal Tests for Drugs, Wiley-Interscience, 1969.
- (5) Mechoulam, R., (ed.), Marijuana Chemistry, Pharmacology, Metabolism, and Clinical Effects, Academic Press, 1973, pp. 142-144.
- (6) Pitt, C.G. et al, The specificity of the Duquenois Color Test for Marijuana and Hashish, Journal of Forensic Sciences, Vol. 17, No. 4, 1972, pp. 693-700.
- (7) Mule, S. J., (ed.), Cocaine: Chemical, Biological, Clinical, Social and Treatment Aspects, CRC Press, Inc., Cleveland, OH, pp. 39-40.
- (8) Drug Analysis Protocol, Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory, Phoenix, AZ.
- (9) McKibben, T., Analyses of Inorganic Components Found In Clandestine Drug Laboratory Evidence, Journal of the Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association, Vol. 5, No. 4, Oct 1995, pp. 19-33.
- (10) Feigl, F., Spot Tests in Organic Analysis, 5th Ed., Elsevier Publishing Company, New York, NY, 1960.
- (11) Procedure for mixed crystal test, unpublished communication from S. Kanika Douch, Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory, Houston, TX.

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	
PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT Effective: 7/17/2024 7:22:30 AM	Page 6 of 6	

- (12) Busby, C., GHB gamma-Hydroxybutyrate Analysis Techniques for GHB and 1,4 Butanediol, Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory, Houston, TX.
- (13) Clarke, E. G. C., (ed.), Isolation and Identification of Drugs, The Pharmaceutical Press, London, England, 1969.
- (14) Alvarez, J. J., Part I: Analytical Data on the Thiophene Analog of Phencyclidine, Microgram, Vol. X, No. 9, Sept. 1977, pp. 120-133.
- (15) Morris, J. A., Extraction of GHB for FTIR Analysis and a New Color Test for *Gamma*-Butyrolactone (GBL), Microgram, Vol. XXXII, No. 8, Aug. 1999, pp.215-221.
- (16) Dal Cason, T. A., The Identification of 4-Methoxyamphetamine (PMA) and 4-Methoxymethamphetamine (PMMA), Microgram, Vol. XXXIII, No. 8, August 2000, pp. 207-222.
- (17) Garrett, A.S., Clemens, S.R., Gaskill, J.H., The Weber Test: A Color Test for the Presence of Psilocin in Mushrooms, SWAFS Journal, Vol. 15, No. 1, April 1993, pp. 44-45.