



Physical Evidence Bulletin

Clandestine Laboratory Samples

Purpose Physical evidence bulletins are a guideline intended for law enforcement agencies to follow in order to submit evidence to any Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) Laboratory. Physical evidence bulletins are not intended to be used in lieu of training in the collection of evidence.

Analysis and results that may be obtained BFS provides analytical support to law enforcement agencies through the analysis of collected samples for the presence of controlled substances, restricted substances, precursors, reagents, and chemicals used in the manufacturing of illicit substances.

The resulting report may include information on which steps in the manufacturing process, if any, were observed. The report may also address how the analytical results may relate to a clandestine laboratory and which illicit substance could be or have been manufactured.

Minimum evidence required As a guide for collections, California Health and Safety Code §11479.5 should be followed. The sample sizes listed in this Code include:

- At least one fluid ounce for liquids
- At least one ounce for solids

Suspected clandestine laboratory evidence should always be delivered to the laboratory in person.

Collection, marking, and packaging Each evidence item collected should be maintained in an appropriate container (bottles for liquids and solids, plastic type bags for solids and equipment parts-tubing, filters etc.) and secured in a thick, chemically resistant heat sealed pouch. The pouch must include the item number at a minimum and its seal initialed.

All samples will then be placed into a screw top plastic pail, which is rated suitable for group II and III materials (UN code Y). Adequate absorbent materials (i.e. vermiculite, chemical absorbent pads, etc. – but no kitty litter) need to be added to the pail. The pail must be marked on the outside with the following (at a minimum):

- submitting agency and case number
- subject(s) name

- date of offense
- item numbers contained

A BFS-1 Physical Evidence Submission Form should be completed and accompany the submission to the laboratory. At a minimum, the following information must be included on the BFS-1 form:

- submitting agency and case number
 - subject(s) name
 - charge(s) and date of offense
 - item number and description
 - chain of custody
 - Name of investigating officer and phone number
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Any finished product should be packaged separately in a tape sealed and initialed Controlled Substances Evidence envelope (BFS-2). The information on the BFS-2 must include the following (at a minimum):

- submitting agency and case number
 - subject(s) name
 - charge(s) and date of offense
 - Item number and description
 - chain of custody
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**For further
information
and additional
resources**

Please contact your regional BFS laboratory with any further questions that you may have.

For a list of regional laboratories go to:

http://ag.ca.gov/bfs/pdf/bfs_brochure.pdf or <http://ag.ca.gov/bfs/>

To locate the most current Physical Evidence Bulletins please go to:

<http://ag.ca.gov/cci/reference/reference.php#peb>

To locate the California Health and Safety Code §11479.5 go to:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

For clandestine laboratory response after normal business hours please contact:

The California Department of Justice Division of Law Enforcement Command Center
@ 916-227-3244
