



TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division

Forensic Chemistry Standard Operating Procedure Manual Scope and Application

1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The purpose of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Chemistry Unit (TBI FCU) is to identify legally significant compounds. These compounds may include, but are not limited to:

- Controlled substances as defined by the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA)
- Substances that have the potential to be abused
- Precursors to these compounds

The procedures and methods outlined in this manual are used to identify these substances while maintaining high quality standards of laboratory operation.

Legally significant compounds are typically found in liquid and solid states. Submissions of these compounds can vary in size from residues to multi-kilogram quantities. Therefore, the TBI FCU has established performance-based testing methods that allow the analyst to choose the appropriate analytical scheme for these diverse samples.

The TBI FCU only quantitates total tetrahydrocannabinol present in plant material exhibits.

Although the TBI FCU does not perform quantitative analyses on other legally significant substances, analysts must be aware that the purity of submitted samples may also affect the route of testing. While the TBI FCU attempts to identify all legally significant compounds, it may become administratively or technically impractical to identify all compounds in a sample.

The TBI FCU Technical Leader, with the input of the TBI FCU Forensic Scientists, will be responsible for reviewing, establishing, and modifying analytical procedures.

TBI FCU procedures will be reviewed and approved by the Regional Laboratory Supervisors and the Forensic Services Division Quality Assurance Manager.