

# MICHIGAN STATE POLICE FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION



## Customer Bulletin - January 1, 2023

The MSP Forensic Science Division has determined that laboratory reports issued by the Controlled Substances and Toxicology Units may not always clearly relate the test results to the specific item tested. Changes have been made to the format of these reports to ensure that laboratory reports remain as unambiguous as possible.

### Controlled Substances Unit Reports

When only one item is weighed, the laboratory report previously stated the measured weight and included the phrase "One item was analyzed." In these cases, the item analyzed was the only item weighed but previous reports did not specifically specify that one item was *weighed*:

Item(s)	Weight	Substance Identified	Schedule
1	0.28 gram	Cocaine	2
Additional Information: Item 1: Material from one knotted bag was analyzed.			

Figure 1 Previous Controlled Substances Unit Laboratory Report Format

Controlled Substances Unit laboratory reports now clearly relate the weight and results to the specific items tested.

Item(s)	Weight	Substance Identified	Schedule
1	0.28 gram	Cocaine	2
Additional Information: Item 1: Material from one knotted bag was weighed and analyzed.			

Figure 2 Updated Controlled Substances Unit Laboratory Report Format

Customers who received a report that appears like the example in Figure 1, may request an evaluation of the report to determine what items were weighed and analyzed. To request an evaluation, contact the laboratory that issued the report by the phone number found at the top of the laboratory report.

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## Toxicology Unit Reports

There are typically two tubes of blood for each case submission in Toxicology. When drug analysis is requested, tube #1 is screened then confirmation testing is performed using blood from tube #1 and/or tube #2. The tube used depends on how much testing is necessary and the volume of blood in each tube.

Previously, when tube #1 was screened and tube #2 is confirmed, the report listed the results as pertaining to Item #1 and Item #2:

### Results of Analysis:

Item #1 and Item #2:

Detected (not quantified):

lorazepam

The submitted specimen(s) were screened for MSP expanded scope. Preliminary drug screening performed by LCMSMS.

Confirmatory analysis performed by GCMS and/or LCMSMS.

*Figure 3 Previous Toxicology Unit Laboratory Report Format*

To add clarity to our toxicology reports regarding the testing performed on each item, the reports will now describe the specific test, method, instrument, and any applicable results separately for each item. These changes will take effect by January 1, 2023.

### Evidence Received:

Container #1	1 - Sealed Michigan State Police Specimen kit containing:
Item #1	1 - 10 mL grey top tube with approx. 4 mL blood
Item #2	1 - 10 mL grey top tube with approx. 4 mL blood

### Results of Analysis:

Item #1:

This item was analyzed for a preliminary drug screen by LC-MS/MS 18-1.

The protocol used in this analysis was TX-PM 3.1 Preliminary Drug Screening by LC-MS/MS (blood)

Item #2:

Detected (not quantified):

lorazepam

This item was analyzed for a benzodiazepine confirmatory analysis by GCMS#7.

The protocol used in this analysis was TX-PM 4.2.1 Benzodiazepine Confirmation and Quantification in Blood.

*Figure 4 Updated Toxicology Unit Laboratory Report Format*

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Additionally, the Toxicology Unit recently outsourced 812 blood and urine cases for cannabinoid confirmation while a new method was being validated. In approximately 95% of the cases, the testing that the Toxicology Unit performed was on Item #1, while Item #2 was sent to NMS. Upon receiving the NMS results, the Toxicology Unit issued a report that read as follows:

**Results of Analysis:**

Item #2:

The submitted specimen(s) were screened for MSP expanded scope. Preliminary drug screening performed by LCMSMS.

A sample submitted for this case was sent to NMS Labs for cannabinoid confirmatory testing. See attached Laboratory Report.

Additional confirmatory cannabinoid testing was performed by MSP and was terminated due to quality assurance concerns. That data is available upon request.

*Figure 5 Example of Toxicology Unit NMS Laboratory Report*

In most cases this lacked a desired level of reporting clarity; the reports instead could more clearly state the tests performed on each item using this laboratory report format:

**Results of Analysis:**

Item #1:

The submitted specimen(s) were screened for MSP expanded scope. Preliminary drug screening performed by LCMSMS.

Additional confirmatory cannabinoid testing was performed by MSP and was terminated due to quality assurance concerns. That data is available upon request.

Item #2:

A sample submitted for this case was sent to NMS Labs for cannabinoid confirmatory testing. See attached Laboratory Report.

*Figure 6 Example Toxicology Unit NMS Laboratory Report with additional Clarity*

Customers who received a report that appears like the example in Figure 5, and would like the report evaluated to determine if the items were reported succinctly, may contact the Toxicology Unit at 517-819-4581.