

TOPIC NO. 16
PROCEDURE FOR DRAWING SAMPLES OF PRECURSOR
CHEMICALS FOR LABORATORY TESTING

DURATION OF SESSION:	45 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR
SUGGESTED METHOD:	LECTURE
TRAINING AIDS:	OHP, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
AIM OF THE SESSION:	

The session aims at explaining to the participants the appropriate procedure of drawing samples from the precursors at the time of their seizure. The session will also advise the participants on what precautions they should take while drawing the samples.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION;

At the end of the session, each participant will be in a position to draw samples as per the prescribed procedure and avoid mistakes that may negate the very purpose of drawing samples.

POINTS TO BE COVERED:

- Whereas each country decides its own procedure of drawing samples of precursor chemicals for laboratory testing, the following are some of the general ideas that can be kept in view while drawing samples provided they are not in conflict with the existing legal procedure of the country.

SAMPLING

- All precursors should be properly classified, carefully weighed and sampled on the spot of seizure.
- All the packages/containers should be serially numbered and kept in lots for sampling.
- Samples should be drawn in duplicate (or triplicate) in the presence of search witnesses and the persons from whose possession the precursor is recovered, and a mention to this effect should invariably be made in the record of seizure or recovery memo drawn on the spot.
- The quantity to be drawn in each sample (both original and duplicate) should be sufficient for chemical test.
- The seized precursors in the packages/containers should be well mixed to make it homogeneous and representative before the sample is drawn.
- One set of samples can be drawn from each lot of 10 packages/containers provided they are of identical size, weight, bearing identical markings and the contents of each package give identical results on test.

- While drawing the sample from a particular lot, it must be ensured that a representative sample in equal quantity is taken from each package/container of that lot and mixed together to make a composite whole from which the samples are drawn for that lot.
- Sample should be kept in a container, which may be appropriate for a particular precursor chemical.
- The sample containers, which should have air tight caps, should be kept in heat sealed plastic bags, as plastic is convenient and safe. Heat sealing of plastic bag may be avoided if it may ignite the chemical. The plastic bag containing the sample container should be kept in a paper envelope, which may be sealed properly. Such sealed envelope may be marked as original and duplicate. Both the envelopes should also bear the Sl. No. of the package(s)/container(s) from which the sample has been drawn. The duplicate envelope containing the sample should also have a reference to the test memo. The seals should be legible. This envelope along with test memos should be kept in another envelope, which should also be sealed and marked 'secret-drug sample/Test memo' to be sent to the chemical laboratory concerned.
- After sampling, detailed inventory of such packages/containers should be prepared for being enclosed to the recovery memo. Original wrappers should also be preserved for evidentiary purposes.