



Houston Forensic Science Center

INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Erika Ziemak, Quality Director

From: James T. Miller, Seized Drugs Manager *James T. Miller* Oct 16, 2020

Date: October 16, 2020

Re: Clarification Memo for Seized Drugs SOP issued 2020-09-07 clause 8.7.2

The intent of this memo is to provide clarification language on clause 8.7.2 in the Seized Drugs SOP issued 2020-09-07, specifically on the language discussing the use of extract dilutions when performing a decision-point assay for the concentration of delta-9-THC in plant substance samples.

This version of the SOP states in part:

8.7.1 When sample extracts do not produce results that meet acceptance criteria but have a DPR value above 1.0, then it is acceptable to perform an extract dilution and reanalyze. High concentrations of delta-9-THC in some samples can lead to unacceptable results and diluting these samples may yield acceptable results.

8.7.2 To prepare the extract dilution combine 1 part of sample extract with 9 parts of methanol. For example, using a volumetric pipette mix 50 μ l of sample extract with 450 μ l of methanol.

This memo serves to clarify that clause 8.7.2 was intended to provide an example of how to prepare a 10-fold dilution and not to limit section staff to the use of a 10-fold dilution. Additional dilutions are acceptable as long as the appropriate ratios of sample extract to methanol are used and the dilution factor is documented in the case record. This clarification will be included in the next revision of the Seized Drugs SOP.