



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 30, 2021

To: All Alaska Law Enforcement

Through: David Kanaris *DAK* 8/30/21
Laboratory Chief

Brandi Barnett *BMB* 8/30/2021
Chemistry Supervisor

From: Derek Walton *DW* 08/30/2021
Seized Drugs Technical Lead

Subject: Submission of large quantity pills for testing

The Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is asking law enforcement, when submitting pills in large quantity for testing, to only submit a few of each type.

At the laboratory, analysts decide which items to test using a variety of factors including:

- Date(s) of seizure
- AK Schedules of the suspected controlled substances
- Number of suspects in the case
- Whether a certain quantity of substance is needed for prosecution

For most substances, testing may be completed with a small amount of material (much less than one ounce). For submissions of pills, only a few of each type are needed for analysis.

Suspected drugs (example: Methamphetamine) are weighed during testing; however, pills are weighed and counted. Counting large numbers of pills requires substantial amounts of time from the analyst that could be spent in other areas (e.g. faster case completion). Furthermore, when a count does not match what was recorded by law enforcement, another analyst is needed to repeat the count which increases the number of people that have access to the evidence.

In order to streamline our process, it is recommended that agencies submit representative samples of pills for testing. An appropriate amount would be 5 of each type that have been seized.