



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

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Customer Notification

Controlled Substances Sample Selection and Clear Reporting

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The OSBI Criminalistics Services Division (CSD) strives to ensure that test reports convey results clearly and unambiguously and are easy to understand. In order to accomplish this, the OSBI CSD works diligently to provide enough detail to ensure that readers can tell what items were submitted, what was tested, and what the results of the tests were without providing so much detail that reports become difficult to understand. However, in recent months it was realized that certain types of controlled substance reports were not sufficiently detailed.

Background:

One of the objectives of reporting results clearly and unambiguously is to ensure that results from what was tested cannot be inadvertently inferred to apply to a portion or item which was not tested. For example, if the OSBI receives 10 tablets, typically only one tablet is tested, and the result is reported along with a statement to indicate that "unless otherwise indicated, only one tablet was tested." By adding this statement, readers should not infer that the reported result applies to the 9 tablets which were not tested.

Recently, it was identified that other items have been received and tested which should have had a similar statement or other additional wording to clarify what was and was not tested. For example, the case originally identified contained an item described as "eighteen square sheets of red gel squares and each sheet has approximately 100 squares . . ." Since this item contained multiple sheets with multiple squares per sheet

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and not all sheets and squares were tested, the report should have indicated how many sheets and squares were tested. After this case was identified, the OSBI CSD recognized that items consisting of blotter paper may also be similarly impacted.

Action Taken:

Once this issue was identified, the OSBI CSD issued an amended report for the case involving "sheets of red gel squares." The OSBI CSD also performed a search of our case management system to identify cases which included blotter paper. These reports were reviewed, and amended reports were issued for two additional cases based on the outcome of the review.

Finally, the OSBI CSD has prepared this notification to ensure all customers are informed of this issue. In the event that you have a similar case with one or more items consisting of multiple sheets, papers, dosage units, tablets, etc, and you cannot determine what portion was tested, please contact the reporting analyst at the phone number in the report header. The analyst will review the report and issue an amended report as needed.

If you have any other questions or comments regarding this notification or issue in general, please contact the OSBI CSD Quality Manager, Erin Henry at 405-330-6724.