

Corrective Action Plan Open Evidence Container

Incident Date: May 16 – 17, 2022

Incident Type: Procedural

Incident Description: Evidence pertaining to BCCL-22-0682 was left in the wet laboratory overnight. BCCL-22-0682 consists of seven exhibits with a box as the evidence container. The seven sealed evidence bags along with an open evidence container were found in the wet laboratory the morning of May 17, 2022. Exhibit 001, plant substance, was sealed and located on the Mettler PC2000 balance. The remaining exhibits were sealed and located inside the open box. The analyst explained that the evidence container was opened in order to take the gross weight of Exhibit 001 a second time. The first time the evidence was weighed, it was using the Mettler Toledo balance and the weight recorded in pounds. However, there is no measurement uncertainty in place for the measurement in pounds or for the conversion of pounds to kilograms. The analyst was then pulled in for a discussion regarding a report for a different case. By the time the discussion was concluded, the analyst forgot about the open evidence. The wet laboratory was locked up for the evening. Upon notification that the evidence was left out the night before, the analyst took ownership of the mistake of leaving the evidence out. Analysis was completed, and the evidence was returned the afternoon of May 17, 2022.

LOG-25-03 Evidence Control

“4.5.3 Drug chemistry evidence shall be stored in a secure vault except during analysis.

4.9.3 Unsealed evidence containers, evidence extracts, or evidence exhibits may be stored in a secure short term storage area while the examination is ongoing, however it shall be handled in such a manner to preserve the evidence's integrity.”

Proposed Corrective Action(s):

1. Identify all secure, short-term storage areas.
2. Update policy to reflect different storage areas analysts are allowed to utilize.
3. Remind personnel that prior to leaving, they should do a visual sweep of their work area to ensure they are not leaving anything unattended.

Timeframe for Corrective Action(s): two months

Comment(s): Currently, our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being revised. Under the proposed SOPs going forward, this would have been considered an incident and an incident form completed. The wet laboratory is a locked part of the internal laboratory; however, it is not secure in that all laboratory members have access.

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Seth Old Seized Drugs
Applicable Analyst / Discipline

05/23/22
Date

Alp Feyer Seized Drugs
Applicable Analyst / Discipline

05/23/22
Date

Ami Hunt
Lab Quality Manager

24 May 2022
Date

Dan Salk
Laboratory Director

25 May 2022
Date