



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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To: All Agencies served by DFS
From: Linda Jackson, Department Director 
Date: May 4, 2021
RE: Reported Measurement Uncertainty for Controlled Substances THC Purity Determinations

The Department has identified an incorrect calculation in the uncertainty of measurement (UoM)¹ reported in Controlled Substance analyses with delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) purity determinations. **This issue does not impact the laboratory analysis conducted or the resulting THC purity value reported, only the associated estimation of measurement uncertainty.** Once the calculations were corrected, the variability estimated for the method was lower than originally reported.

The example below illustrates how a THC purity was reported before and after this correction.

- Originally reported: The liquid was analyzed and found to contain $11.8 \pm 1.6\%$ delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol by weight.
- Newly calculated: The liquid was analyzed and found to contain $11.8 \pm 1.4\%$ delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol by weight.

The Certificates of Analysis (CoAs) affected were issued between October 22, 2019 and March 11, 2021.

For offenses occurring prior to July 1, 2020, the Department quantified the THC concentration in samples to determine if they met the definition of "Hashish oil" in Virginia Code § 54.1-3401, which required a THC content equal to or greater than 12 percent by weight. Accordingly, the Department will be issuing Amended CoAs to correct the calculated measurement uncertainty for any case in which THC purity was reported at or between 10.0% and 14.0% during the aforementioned timeframe. For any case where the THC purity reported does not meet the threshold for an Amended CoA, a Memorandum for Record detailing this issue will be placed in the case file.

For questions, please contact the Controlled Substances Section Supervisor at the DFS Laboratory that provides service to your agency:

Laboratory	Section Contact	Phone Number
Central (Richmond)	John Przybylski	(804) 588-4154
Eastern (Norfolk)	Brian Meinweiser	(757) 355-5958
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¹ In short, the UoM is the expected variation associated with a measurement process.