COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

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NOTICE OF DFS FIELD TEST APPROVAL

TO: All Agencies Served by DFS
FROM: Alka B. Lohmann, Department Director *Alka B. Lohmann*
DATE: November 2, 2026
RE: Approval of an additional Presumptive Mobile Instrument for the Detection of Drugs

Under Virginia Code § 19.2-188.1(A), law enforcement officers may testify to the results of any approved field test in any preliminary hearing on a violation of Chapter 11 (§ 4.1-1100 et seq.) of Title 4.1, Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, or subdivision 6 of § 53.1-203.

Pursuant to 6 VAC 40-30, the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) has approved another presumptive mobile instrument for the detection of drugs. This approval of the TruNarc™ Delta is limited to use of Direct Scanning and Type-H modes. When TruNarc™ Delta results are used in preliminary hearings, it is recommended the appropriate mode is documented.

DFS's approval of the TruNarc™ Delta Handheld Narcotics Analyzer, manufactured by Thermo Fisher Scientific, was published on November 2, 2026, in the Virginia Register of Regulations, Volume 43, Issue 6. This presumptive mobile instrument has been approved in addition to other chemical field tests (previously published in the General Notices section of the Virginia Register of Regulations: 39:12 VA.R. 1519-1523 January 30, 2023) and the following mobile instruments and modes of operation:

1. TruNarc™ Handheld Narcotics Analyzer (has been discontinued)
2. MX908 Handheld Mass Spectrometer (limited to Trace Module in Drug Hunter mode)
3. TruNarc™ Delta Handheld Narcotics Analyzer (limited to Direct Scanning and Type-H modes)

Similar to its predecessor, the TruNarc™ Delta Handheld Narcotics Analyzer is a Raman spectrometer for preliminary screening of suspected controlled substances. Raman spectroscopy allows users to scan directly through plastic or glass packaging to reduce exposure and minimize contamination. However, Raman spectroscopy is not ideal for the detection of drugs in low concentrations within a mixture. Many drugs, such as synthetic opioids, remain dangerous even when present in low concentrations.

Fentanyl identification was found to be challenging and will require the use of Type-H mode for improved accuracy. Given the potential for misidentification or inconclusive results, mobile instrument users should continue to take safety precautions designed to prevent exposure to dangerous substances during the handling, testing, and/or transporting of suspected controlled substances. The results of any approved field test are considered presumptive, and law enforcement officers should submit any suspected controlled substances to DFS for confirmatory analysis.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Robyn Weimer, the Chemistry Program Manager, at (804) 588-4049.