

Home Office Circular

The testing of substances suspected to be drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

From: Crime, Policing and Fire Group (CPFG) – Drugs and Alcohol Unit

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST)

Telephone: +44 (0) 1727 865051

Email: CASTenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

THIS CIRCULAR IS ADDRESSED TO:

Chief Officers of Police (England and Wales), Chief Crown Prosecutors, DPP, Chief Executive of HM Courts & Tribunals Service, Director of Crime, Delivery Directors, Heads of Crime, Cluster Managers, Regional Support Units, Crown Court staff, Magistrates' Court staff, Clerks to the Justices, Royal Courts of Justice-Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) staff, Lord Chief Justice, President of the Queen's Bench Division, Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, Lords Justices of Appeal, Presiding Judges, High Court Judges Queen's Bench Division, Crown Court Judges, Resident Judges, District Judges (Magistrates' Courts) Chairmen of the Justices, Council of Circuit Judges, Magistrates' Association, Sheriff's Court, National Offender Management Service

COPIES ARE BEING SENT TO:

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Chief Officer of Police (Scotland), College of Policing, Judicial College, Border Force, National Crime Agency.

Broad Subject: Crime and Disorder

Sub Category: Drug offences

Dear Chief Officer

1. This Circular provides advice to law enforcement personnel on those drug testing kits that have been approved by the Home Office for the purpose of testing substances suspected to be controlled drugs, according to the terms of Home Office Circular 015/2012. It also sets out the requirements for the provision of training to officers in the use of drug testing devices.

2. Annexes A and B of Home Office Circular 015/2012 set out the Approved Drug Testing Devices, their suppliers, and information concerning training. This information was revised through Home Office Circular 013/2014. This Circular provides a further update, and replaces Home Office Circular 013/2014. The approval status of kits is not affected by their commercial availability. For completeness this Circular includes kits which, although no longer commercially available, remain approved. Annexes A & B of Home Office Circular 015/2012 should be destroyed and replaced by the attached revisions.

3. Any enquiries about this Circular should be addressed to the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) at CASTenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

ANNEX A

APPROVED DRUG TESTING DEVICES

1. Currently there are three types of indicative kit that are approved by the Home Office to identify drugs for evidential purposes: Marquis Reagent kits that rely on colour change, immunoassay kits that provide a line indication, and electronic kits that produce a digital readout. Kits have been approved by the Home Office for use in testing for the following drugs only:

- heroin
- morphine
- amphetamine
- cocaine
- MDMA (ecstasy)
- ketamine
- methylmethcathinone (including mephedrone)

in accordance with paragraphs 7-16 of Home Office Circular 015/2012 - Testing of substances suspected to be drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Home Office approved kits for **heroin, morphine and amphetamine** are:

Kit Name	Supplier	Address	Telephone	Email	website
BDH Marquis Test Kit	VWR International Ltd	Hunter Boulevard Magna Park Lutterworth Leicestershire LE17 4XN	0800 223344	uksales@uk.vwr.com	www.vwr.com
	WA Products (UK) Ltd	Midas House 8 & 9 Burnham Business Park Springfield Road Burnham on Crouch CM0 8TE	01621 786654	sales@waproducts.co.uk	www.waproducts.co.uk
MMC Opiate/amphetamine test	MMC International BV	Frankenthalerstraat 16-18 4816 KA Breda The Netherlands	0031765711140	info@mmcinter.com	www.mmcinter.com
	Tetra Scene Of Crime Limited	Unit 14 Carnival Park Carnival Way Basildon SS14 3WE	01268 525218	Available through the website	www.tetrasoc.com
	Crack-Down Drug Testing	Unit 11 Boarhurst Business Park Boarhurst Lane Greenfield Saddleworth OL3 7ER	01457 877988	sales@crackdown-drugtesting.com	www.crackdown-drugtesting.com
	Forensic Pathways UK	Unit 3 Ninian Park Ninian Way Wilnecote Tamworth B77 5ES	01827 255170	sales@forensic-pathways.com	www.forensic-pathways.com
NIK Marquis Reagent Test A	Tetra Scene Of Crime Limited	Unit 14 Carnival Park Carnival Way Basildon SS14 3WE	01268 525218	Available through the website	www.tetrasoc.com

The Home Office approved kits for cocaine are:

Kit Name	Supplier	Address	Telephone	Email	website
Alere Rapid Solids Test Kit for Cocaine (no longer commercially available)	Alere Toxicology	92 Milton Park Abingdon OX14 4RY	01235 861483	toxeu.webenquiries@aler.e.com	www.aleretoxicology.co.uk
Drug-ID Cocaine Test Kit	Dtec International Ltd	PO Box 914 Preston PR4 9BE	0800 371898	Available through the website	www.dtecinternational.com

The Home Office approved kits for MDMA are:

Kit Name	Supplier	Address	Telephone	Email	website
MMC Crystal Meth/XTC Kit	MMC International BV	Frankenthalerstraat 16-18 4816 KA Breda The Netherlands	0031765711140	info@mmcinter.com	www.mmcinter.com
	Tetra Scene Of Crime Limited	Unit 14 Carnival Park Carnival Way Basildon SS14 3WE	01268 525218	Available through the website	www.tetrasoc.com
	Crack-Down Drug Testing	Unit 11 Boarhurst Business Park Boarhurst Lane Greenfield Saddleworth OL3 7ER	01457 877988	sales@crackdown-drugtesting.com	www.crackdown-drugtesting.com
	Forensic Pathways UK	Unit 3 Ninian Park Ninian Way Wilnecote Tamworth B77 5ES	01827 255170	sales@forensic-pathways.com	www.forensic-pathways.com
Itemiser 3 Enhanced (I3E)	Morpho Detection (UK) Ltd	Granary House Station Road Great Shelford Cambridge CB22 5LR	01223 728888	sales@mdii@morpho.com	www.morpho.com/detection

The Home Office approved kits for **ketamine** are:

Kit Name	Supplier	Address	Telephone	Email	website
TruNarc Analyser	HazmatLINK Ltd	The Innovation Centre Lauriston Park Pitchill Evesham WR11 8SN	01242 808902	Available through the website	www.hazmatlink.com
Alpha IR	Bruker UK Limited	Banner Lane Coventry CV4 9GH	024 7685 5200	sales@bruker.co.uk	www.bruker.com
Mobile IR	Bruker UK Limited	Banner Lane Coventry CV4 9GH	024 7685 5200	sales@bruker.co.uk	www.bruker.com
Alere Rapid Solids Test Kit for Ketamine (no longer commercially available)	Alere Toxicology	92 Milton Park Abingdon OX14 4RY	01235 861483	Toxeu.webenquiries@aleretoxicology.co.uk	www.aleretoxicology.co.uk
	WA Products (UK) Ltd	Midas House 8 & 9 Burnham Business Park Springfield Road Burnham on Crouch CM0 8TE	01621 786654	sales@waproducts.co.uk	www.waproducts.co.uk
Itemiser 3 (I3)	Morpho Detection (UK) Ltd	Granary House Station Road Great Shelford Cambridge CB22 5LR	01223 728888	sales@mdii@morpho.com	www.morpho.com/detection
Itemiser 3 Enhanced (I3E)	Morpho Detection (UK) Ltd	Granary House Station Road Great Shelford Cambridge CB22 5LR	01223 728888	sales@mdii@morpho.com	www.morpho.com/detection

The Home Office approved kits for **methylmethcathinone** are:

Kit Name	Supplier	Address	Telephone	Email	website
TruNarc Analyser	HazmatLINK Ltd	The Innovation Centre Lauriston Park Pitchill Evesham WR11 8SN	01242 808902	Available through the website	www.hazmatlink.com
Alpha IR	Bruker UK Limited	Banner Lane Coventry CV4 9GH	024 7685 5200	sales@bruker.co.uk	www.bruker.com
Mobile IR	Bruker UK Limited	Banner Lane Coventry CV4 9GH	024 7685 5200	sales@bruker.co.uk	www.bruker.com

2. Suppliers of other devices who would like their devices to be considered for addition to this list should contact the Home Office by email at CASTenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. The Home Office will arrange for the device to be tested at the supplier's cost. In considering whether a device should be added to the Home Office approved list, particular attention will be given to its suitability for use by non-scientific staff; clarity of instructions; specificity of results; avoidance of contamination; labelling and packaging; and health and safety.

3. Home Office approval is subject to periodic renewal and at any time the device is modified. The Home Office must be notified in advance of any changes in the packaging, instructions or composition of the device. Any changes which in the view of the Home Office may affect the efficacy and safety of use will require re-testing at the supplier's cost. Failure to notify the Home Office of changes will result in approval being withdrawn.

4. Users should note that the performance of drug testing kits (and particularly electronic devices) can vary. In the interests of tracking performance and highlighting issues police users are asked to inform CAST in the event of a result not matching the drug as stated by the suspect (see paragraph 7 of Home Office Circular 015/2012) or where subsequent forensic analysis provides a different result to that of the drug testing kit. In this circumstance please email CASTenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk with the following information:

- Name
- Force
- Date
- Suspected drug
- Drug testing kit used
- Result

ANNEX B

TRAINING IN THE USE OF DRUG TESTING DEVICES

1. The College of Policing oversees training on drug testing kits, which is in two parts.

- Core, assessed training on the theoretical and practical considerations of conducting any drug tests must be completed before any training is carried out on specific kits. This should include the legal environment, and EDIT and drug testing kit processes. This training will be provided by individual forces.
- Training on the Home Office approved specific drug testing kits may be provided by private companies, manufacturers or police forces (by staff trained to the manufacturers' standards). Individual forces may select training providers in each case.