

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**28 September 2020 / 28 septembre 2020**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-14: TESTING OF SUBSTANCES SEIZED  
IN INVESTIGATIONS**

**OBJET: RÉPONSE À LA DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS I-20-14 :  
ANALYSE DE SUBSTANCES SAISIES LORS D'ENQUÊTES**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receives this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du  
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

**INQUIRY**

There are systems available to test substances seized as a result of investigations, such as drugs, that can give immediate results, as well as systems that take longer (more than 90 days). What system is the OPS currently using?

**RESPONSE**

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) has different tools to assess substances seized during the course of an investigation. These include:

**Drug Unit**

- **Smith Detection Machine ION 600 Scanner:** This new device allows specially trained officers the ability to take a swab sample of a substance and insert it into the scanner to identify most substances. It is only used during investigations but does not always return 100% identification.
- **Kits:** Drug Unit officers have access to presumptive field narcotic tests, MMC General Screening Multi-Party Drug Test Kits, as well as cocaine swabs. These kits and swabs help officers to identify unknown substances.
- **Off-site:** Additionally, we can send samples to Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service in Toronto. This is the most common way that drugs are identified, but submission results can take between 40 and 60 days to return. Urgent requests can be made with the approval of a Health Canada manager and can take up to 14 days to return.

### Forensic Identification Section (FIS)

The following tools are used by our investigators to determine the presence of substances at a crime scene, on an exhibit, or on-scene to assist with officer and public safety.



- **Hermastix-Siemens:** Assists investigators to determine the presence of blood in the course of crime scene examination.



- **Identa:** Assists investigators to identify the presence of Fentanyl.

These test kits are used for presumptive analysis and confirmed through scientific testing completed at the Centre of Forensic Sciences in each particular specialty (toxicology, biology or chemistry), by scientists approved in a laboratory or facility that is recognized by the Courts.