

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Procedures for specimen collection and  
the detection and quantitation of drugs  
in oral fluid**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CH-039, Detection of Drugs in Oral Fluid. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 10 October 2006. This Standard was published on 1 November 2006.

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The following are represented on Committee CH-039:

- Australian Industry Group
  - Australian Worker's Union
  - Forensic Science South Australia
  - Institute of Environmental Science & Research, New Zealand
  - Monash University
  - National Institute of Forensic Science
  - National Measurement Institute
  - Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
  - Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
  - Transport Workers' Union of Australia
  - Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
  - The Western Australia Centre of Pathology and Medical Research
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 05590.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through public comment received.

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First published as AS 4760—2006.

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Published by Standards Australia, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 0 7337 7825 9

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-039, Detection of Drugs in Oral Fluid. After consultation with stakeholders of both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard, rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide requirements and guidance on the mechanisms of incorporation of drugs in oral fluid, factors that might affect drug concentration, applicability of oral fluid for drug testing and general issues related to drug detection on-site and in the laboratory. Also to ensure that the preliminary (if not already conducted on-site) and confirmatory laboratory procedures meet the needs for the detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid.

The collecting agency and laboratory should maintain the utmost confidentiality of test results and should not disclose results to another party other than the requesting authority or donor.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

### Australian Standard

## Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid

### SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

#### 1.1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

##### 1.1.1 Scope

This Standard provides requirements and guidance on the mechanisms of incorporation of drugs into oral fluid, factors that might affect drug concentration, procedures for specimen collection, storage, handling, on-site initial testing and, if relevant, dispatch of human oral fluid to the laboratory. It also covers applicability of oral fluid for drug testing and general issues related to drug detection on-site and quantitation in the laboratory.

The laboratory method is intended for, but not limited to, workplace, medico-legal or court-directed detection of any or all of the following classes of drug:

- (a) Opiates.
- (b) Amphetamine-type stimulants.
- (c) Cannabis.
- (d) Cocaine and metabolites.

NOTE: Although the use of test results is outside the scope of this Standard, where oral fluid testing is used for employment purposes, consideration should be given to the development of policies in consultation with all relevant parties, specifically in relation to the basis of requesting, testing, reporting and the proper application of results.

##### 1.1.2 Application

The Standard addresses only the testing of specimens for workplace, medico-legal or court-directed purposes. The testing of specimens for clinical use or in sport is not covered. Oral fluid specimens collected under this Standard should only be used for the specific purpose of drug analysis, e.g. they are not to be used for DNA testing.

#### 1.2 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

##### 1.2.1 Referenced documents

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

- AS 1162 Verification and use of volumetric apparatus
  - 2162.1 Part 1: General—Volumetric glassware
  - 2162.2 Part 2: Guide to the use of piston-operated volumetric apparatus (POVA)
- 2164 Laboratory glassware—One-mark volumetric flasks
- 2166 Laboratory glassware—One-mark pipettes
- 2167 Graduated straight pipettes