

# Practical and Safety Aspects of Clandestine Laboratory Investigations

## Course Description:

Clandestine laboratory investigations are not new in forensic sciences. It does however change its appearance on the global market similar to fashion. The juries of the criminal justice system rely on the integrity of the scientists that investigate clandestine laboratories to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. Whether you are the first responder securing the crime scene or the evidence collector for the scene, one should always consider the safety aspects associated with such scenes as well as the separation/preservation of hazardous chemicals for processing. Processing and note taking of clandestine laboratory scenes are one of the most important parts of the investigation. The quality of the analytical results rely on the quality of the samples collected and type of samples collected at the crime scene.

The scheduled workshop will cover various concepts of clandestine laboratory investigations. Topics to be covered include: Identifications and classification of controlled substances (naturally occurring or synthesized) from clandestine laboratory operations, first responders to clandestine laboratory operations, safety aspects associated with clandestine laboratory operations, note taking, plan sketching, and photography of clandestine laboratory events, chemical identification of precursors, solvents and reagents, basic staging of clandestine laboratories, selection/collection and preservation of chemicals, chronological flow of synthesis and proper submission of evidence to the crime laboratory.

The intervention will provide a basic understanding of the analytical process of clandestine laboratory investigation, safety associated with clandestine operations, capturing all events from the clandestine laboratory for the forensic chemist, identification, selection, processing and preservation of chemicals on a clandestine laboratory, and proper submission of all evidence to the forensic chemist working in the crime laboratory. The target group is law enforcement officers working in crime scene units, who process or plan to process clandestine laboratories. Forensic chemists working in controlled substance units who want to know more about clandestine laboratory operations can also attend. The workshop has a hands-on practical exercise on day two and will not be overly technical on the chemical aspects of clandestine operations, but rather more field orientated.