

It has already been mentioned that the method development and analysis of 280 blood samples and of 16 urine samples were carried out over a ten month period. Provided a suitable laboratory does not have to cope with method development and can proceed directly to work on the samples, the following appeared to be a realistic time-frame for two technicians analysing for trichothecenes:

- sample extraction and clean-up:
20 samples/day; and

- actual GC/MS analysis (one station):
15 samples/day.

In theory, the study reported here should have taken approximately 14 working days for extraction and clean-up; and approximately 20 working days for analysis. Allowing for weekends, almost assured temporary breakdown of equipment of a minor nature, and the necessary calibration of instruments every so often would suggest a turn-around time for 280 samples of slightly in excess of two calendar months. Provision of more technicians and several work stations could shorten this time significantly. The participation of more than one laboratory would not necessarily shorten the time-frame, since the purpose would likely be corroborative analysis.