

extraction procedures and had an extensive database at their disposal. For them the exercise was mainly reduced to monitoring known compounds. Several laboratories used procedures consisting of several extraction and derivatization steps there being no recommended procedures, for example, for cotton buds or charcoal samples. In spite of the unexpected types and numbers of samples many of the laboratories considered the exercise as very interesting and challenging.

After the first round-robin test the experts discussed the need for background information on the samples. Information on the type of location where the samples were collected, whether alleged use or industry, was considered desirable. Information on the particular sampling points in the facility helped in understanding of the production process. This may, however, be considered as highly confidential information by the facility, and hence should not be revealed to a laboratory capable of doing in-depth analysis of all chemicals in the samples. On the other hand, in the presence of appropriate confidentiality agreements, some of this information might be released to assist the analysts. This problem does not arise, however, when the analyses are made on-site with "blinded" instruments having only scheduled chemicals in their databases. In this case all non-treaty chemicals would stay unidentified as structure elucidation would then be impossible. In the absence of extensive databases structure elucidation of unknown compounds would require combined use of several spectrometric methods and, therefore, would be outside the time frame of an on-site inspection.

In the meeting after the first round-robin test the experts discussed, but did not agree, specific criteria for identification. The minimum requirement was considered by many to be electron ionization and chemical ionization mass spectra together with information on the retention behavior. These requirements were discussed in the context of scheduled chemicals for which either identification data or authentic chemicals were available.

The present test strongly emphasized the need for identification criteria in verification analyses. Some laboratories did not list any chemicals for which no reference material was available, and the identification of which would have had to be based on structure