



# GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3121 Panthersville Road  
P.O. Box 370808  
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Milton E. Nix, Jr.  
Director

## Operations Bulletin May 15, 2002

On July 1, 2002, GBI-DOFS will implement significant changes to the Marijuana Identification Certification program. The course will take two consecutive days to complete, and there will be strict prerequisites to register. The class is being extended to provide time to cover the lecture material in more detail. Also, proficiency samples will be analyzed on the second day of the course instead of students selecting ten samples and sending them to the GBI Crime Lab. This will allow students to become certified more quickly.

The prerequisites to attend the 16-hour Marijuana Certification class are as follows:

- A letter from the officer's Supervisor must be provided to GPSTC registration. This letter must indicate that marijuana identification is or will be a part of the officer's duties as well as testimony in local courts.
- The officer must bring to class a calculator, microscope, balance and a current calibration certificate for that balance. The microscope must have a reflective light source with a total magnification of 30-50x. The balance must weigh in grams to at least one decimal place and should be capable of weighing up to 300.0 grams.
- The balance calibration certificate must be less than one year old from the time of the attended class. The GBI Crime Lab no longer calibrates balances for law enforcement agencies.

All certificates will expire four years from the date they were issued. Certification also expires for those who have previously passed the one-day class. Officers with certificates issued on or prior to July 1, 1998 have until December 31, 2002 to renew their certification. Certification is renewed by successfully completing the two-day course.

The purpose of re-certification is to ensure the guidelines for identifying and weighing marijuana are properly followed. Re-certification provides opportunities for refresher training, legislation updates, and covering changes in marijuana analysis.

External proficiency samples will no longer be accepted after September 1, 2002. Officers who passed the one-day class have until then to successfully complete ten proficiency samples.