



# GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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## OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2006-03 CERTIFIED MARIJUANA EXAMINER'S COURSE AUDITS OCTOBER 13, 2006

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation-Division of Forensic Sciences, GBI-DOFS, sponsors and maintains operation of the Certified Marijuana Examiner's Course. This course has been ongoing for over 20 years, resulting in over a thousand certified marijuana examiners statewide. In July 2002, the program was extended to 16 hours to include all written and practical proficiency tests. This 2 day class also requires students to bring equipment to class so that GBI-DOFS instructors can approve the equipment for use prior to certification. The course also includes extensive lecture on weighing, sampling, and testing with a final focus on courtroom preparation utilizing a mock trial. Students must recertify every 4 years. This program is continuously evolving to achieve the highest possible standards while meeting the needs of the Georgia criminal justice system. With this endeavor in mind, GBI-DOFS will begin auditing every location throughout the state where marijuana testing is being done. The goal of this audit is to ensure consistency among all law enforcement agencies regarding the testing of marijuana.

Initially, GBI-DOFS will perform a pre-assessment audit to obtain information from sites throughout the state. The scope of the pre-assessment audit involves assisting law enforcement agencies with their own programs by making suggestions for improvements. The pre-assessment audits will begin in January 2007. This inspection contains the following three parts: equipment, testing, and overall site evaluation. Each agency will be contacted for scheduling purposes and will be given feedback about their pre-assessment audit. GBI-DOFS will maintain records of each site visit and will modify efforts and goals through this process to provide the most beneficial insight to law enforcement agencies about their marijuana testing program. Following the pre-assessment audit, GBI-DOFS will begin auditing sites every other year.

GBI-DOFS strongly encourages all agencies to utilize the 16 hour Certified Marijuana Examiner's program for all personnel who are actively testing marijuana. This will further enhance the statewide effort for quality and consistency. Online registration for these classes is available through the GPSTC website, <http://www.gpstc.org/>. Classes are taught monthly, and all students must bring equipment to class. Please see the website for a listing of prerequisites.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call Chemistry Manager Mark Burns at 404-270-8107 or Deputy Director Dan Kirk at 404-270-8072.

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