



## **Appendix H – Drug Testing Lab Interface Description**



**San Luis Obispo County  
Health Agency, Behavioral Health Department  
Drug Testing Lab Interface Description**

## **Overview**

The County currently contracts with a toxicology laboratory (hereafter “the Lab”) to analyze and test specimens collected by the Drug and Alcohol Services Division. The specimens are collected and physically shipped overnight to the Lab. A log, or shipping manifest, of the shipped specimens is created by the County and sent electronically to the Lab. Results of the lab test for each specimen are returned electronically in batches via FTP.

Provided below is a brief description of the County’s electronic file format for the exchange of drug test results, as well as a diagram of the process.

### **“Drug Test Result” File Format**

The Drug Test Result (hereafter “Result”) file is an ASCII file with each field surrounded by quotes and delimited by commas. Unused fields must have “” (quotes) present.

There are four record types that are identified by the leading field in each line. They are:

- D** Definition Record
- H** Header Record
- R** Result Record
- C** Control Record

### **Definition Record**

Each definition record contains a description of a data field that is used repeatedly in the other data records. There is exactly one record for each unique value of the data field. The definition records can be used to update and/or create lookup tables for the coded data elements.

### **Header Record**

Each Header Record contains the identifying information for an individual specimen.



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## **Result Record**

Each Result Record contains information for one test result. There will be multiple result records for each header record. A test can have multiple results. There is always a primary result that is always identified with a Result Code. Additional results may also appear which provide more specific information about the primary result. For example, a positive amphetamine result would generally include an additional result identifying the amphetamine as either methamphetamine or amphetamine.

## **Control Record**

There will be exactly one control record at the end of each file. It provides various record counts so the file can be checked for completeness. In addition, several dates are included which indicate what results should be included.

## **Overall File Structure**

Each line in the file is terminated by a linefeed/carriage return combination. The field separator is a comma with each field enclosed in quotes.

The download file records are arranged in the following order:

- Definition Record (1 or more)
- Header Record
- Result Record (1 or more for each Header Record)
- Repeat for all available specimens
- Control Record (always last record in file)



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**Sample Data File**

The following is a sample of a data file. The header records (“H”) are generally word wrapped in the sample below but are a single line in an actual data file. The sample includes results for four specimens from two different agencies.

```
"D","Agency Code","076342","Sample Agency One"
"D","Agency Code","076453","Sample Agency Two"
"D","Test Code","069","Creatinine"
"D","Test Code","472","THC"
"D","Test Code","463","Cocaine"
"D","Test Code","845","Amphetamines"
"D","Test Code","047","Alcohol"
"D","Test Code","093","Opiates"
"D","Test Code","096","Barbiturates"
"D","Test Code","095","Benzodiazepines"
"D","Result Code","463-1","Cocaine TLC Confirmed"
"D","Result Code","069-000","Creatinine"
"D","Result Code","472-000","THC (Marijuana)"
"D","Result Code","463-000","Cocaine (Benzoyllecgonine)"
"D","Result Code","845-000","Amphetamines"
"D","Result Code","845-1","Methamphetamines TLC Confirmed"
"D","Result Code","047-000","Alcohol (Ethanol)"
"D","Result Code","093-000","Opiates"
"D","Result Code","096-000","Barbiturates"
"D","Result Code","095-000","Benzodiazepines"
"H","20000915-
01129","076342","466896030NR","4782","RJG","09/14/2000","09/15/2000","09/16/2000","OP","OP","WR","","W","12:15PM"
"R","20000915-01129","845","000","Positive","+++"
"R","20000915-01129","845","1","Positive","+++"
"R","20000915-01129","463","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01129","472","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01129","069","000","116.4","N "
"H","20000915-01130","076342","524690286NR","4783","RJG","09/14/2000","09/15/2000","09/16/2000","OP","OP","WR","","S",""
"R","20000915-01130","845","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01130","463","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01130","472","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01130","069","000","244.1","N "
"H","20000915-
01131","076453","522545278PRO","4786","DDL","09/14/2000","09/15/2000","09/16/2000","OP","OP","WR","","H","13:10"
"R","20000915-01131","845","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","047","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","472","000","65","+++"
"R","20000915-01131","463","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","093","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","096","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","095","000","Negative","- "
"R","20000915-01131","069","000","19.6","VL"
"H","20000915-
03418","076453","524252426PRO","4738","MLS","09/13/2000","09/15/2000","09/15/2000","JB","JB","WR","Specimen leaked in
transit - quantity not sufficient for analysis.,"W","09:30AM"
"R","20000915-03418","845","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","047","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","472","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","463","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","093","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","096","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","095","000","",""
"R","20000915-03418","069","000","",""
"C","20","4","25","50","09/12/2000","09/15/2000","09/15/2000","09/16/2000","04:16:03"
```



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**Diagram of Drug Testing Data Exchange Process**

