

# & OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS GHB Detection Kit

INFORMATION

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Gamma Hydroxy-a-butyric Acid, commonly known as GHB is an anaesthetic drug, used in the USA for its sedating rather than for its painkilling effects. It is a colorless, odorless, salty-tasting liquid that usually comes in small bottles. The sodium salt of GHB is a white powder. American drug laws classify it as a Schedule 1 controlled substance.

# CONDUCTING THE TEST

The NARTEC GHB test is based upon the development of a greenish-blue color when the light- green reagent is added to the drug, GHB. The test ampule works with powders and to a lesser degree on liquids, depending upon the concentration of the GHB in the liquids.

Before conducting the test, remove the printed cardboard cap from the clear tube and slide it onto the bottom of the tube.

## 1. TOUCH THE POWDER OR DIP INTO THE LIQUID.

Touch the fiber tip to the suspect powder. Powder should adhere to the tip. It is not necessary that the fiber tip be heavily coated with powder. In most instances a few particles on the tip are sufficient. If testing a liquid, dip the fiber tip into the liquid and shake off the excess liquid.

#### 2. CRUSH THE AMPOULE

The clear protective plastic tube contains a glass ampoule of liquid. With the fiber tip pointed upward, squeeze the cardboard cap to crush the ampoule. Hold the tip downward and gently squeeze the cap and tube to force the liquid into the fiber tip.

#### 3. OBSERVE THE COLOR

An immediate greenish-blue color (developing within 1 - 4 seconds) is a positive test for the drug, GHB. The test does not react with GBL, a precursor, used for manufacturering GHB.

NOTE: Aquous ammonia will react with the test solution and immediately turn the test solution a blue to dark-blue color. Amonia has a <u>very distinctive odor</u> and should not be found in a liquid that would be ingested.

Liquids containing GHB turn a blue to blue-green hue, depending on the amount of GHB present. The color will be most noticeable where the fiber tip is down inside the plastic protective sleeve of the ampule. In brown-colored cola "drinks," the blue color may be more difficult to see. As the tip dries, the blue color becomes more distintive.

## DISPOSAL

After finishing the test, replace the cap onto the tube and dispose of the used tube. Strong acids and bases are not used in the testing procedure, so the tube may be safely disposed of by ordinary methods. A small zip-loc plastic bag may be used for disposing the used test ampoule. The test should be conducted in a well-ventilated area.