

METHODOLOGY FOR OFFENDER FUNCTION CODING

A. Offender Function Definitions

Table H-1 provides definitions for all 21 offender function categories used for the offender coding project discussed in Chapter 8. Each offender was assigned to one of the 21 categories in the table based on the most *serious* conduct described in the offense conduct section of the Presentence Report. The assignment of offender function category is solely based on the description of the offender’s conduct, not on court findings or guideline criteria for role in the offense. Terms used to describe offender function do not necessarily correlate with guideline definitions of similar terms. For example, the definition of manager/supervisor used to assign offender function does not match the guideline definition of manager or supervisor in USSG §3B1.1. The categories are listed in descending order of culpability, importer/high-level supplier is considered the most serious offender function, and user is considered the least serious offender function.

Table H-1
Offender Function Categories

Function	Definition
Importer/high-level supplier	Imports or otherwise supplies large quantities of drugs, is near the top of the distribution chain, has ownership interest in drugs (not merely transporting drugs for another individual), usually supplies drugs to other drug distributors and does not deal in retail amounts; may employ no, or very few subordinates.
Organizer/leader	Organizes, leads, directs, or otherwise runs a drug distribution organization, has the largest share of the profits and the most decision making authority.
Grower/manufacturer	Grows, cultivates, or manufactures a controlled substance, and is the principal owner of the drugs.
Financier/money launderer	Provides money for purchase, importation, manufacture, cultivation, transportation, or distribution of drugs; launders proceeds of drug sales or purchases.
Aircraft pilot/vessel captain	Pilots aircraft or other vessel, requires special skill; does not include offenders who are sole participants directing a small boat (<i>e.g.</i> , a go-fast boat) onto which drugs have been loaded from a “mother ship” (<i>See</i> courier/mule below).
Wholesaler	Sells one ounce or more in a single transaction, sells any amount to another dealer, buys two ounces in a single transaction, possesses two ounces or more.

Table H-1
Offender Function Categories

Function	Definition
Manager	Serves as a lieutenant to assist one of the above functions; manages all or a significant portion of a drug manufacturing, importation, or distribution operation; takes instructions from one of the above functions and conveys to subordinates; supervises directly at least one other co-participant in an organization of at least five co-participants.
Bodyguard/strongman/debt collector	Provides physical and personal security for another co-participant in the offense; collects debts owed, or punishes recalcitrant persons.
Chemist/cook/chemical supplier	Produces LSD, methamphetamine, crack, or other drugs, but is not the principal owner of the drugs and therefore does not qualify as a grower/manufacturer. Chemical suppliers do not handle the drugs, but engage in the unlawful diversion, sale, or furnishing of listed chemicals or equipment used in the synthesis or manufacturing of controlled substances.
Supervisor	Supervises at least one other co-participant but has limited authority and does not qualify as a manager.
Street-level dealer	Distributes retail quantities directly to the drug user. Sells less than one ounce in a single transaction.
Broker/steerer/go-between	Arranges for two parties to buy or sell drugs, or directs potential buyers to potential sellers.
Courier	Transports or carries drugs with the assistance of a vehicle or other equipment. Includes offenders, otherwise considered to be crew members, who are the sole participants directing a vessel (<i>e.g.</i> , a go-fast boat) onto which drugs have been loaded from a “mother ship.”
Mule	Transports or carries drugs internally or on his/her person, often by airplane or crossing the border. Includes offenders who only transport or carry drugs in baggage, souvenirs, clothing, or otherwise.
Renter/storer	Provides, for profit or other compensation, a personal residence, structure (barn, building, storage facility), land, or equipment for use in the drug offense. Distinguished from enablers due to compensation received for services.
Money runner	Transports or carries money and/or drugs to and from the street-level dealer.
Off-loader/loader	Performs the physical labor required to put large quantities of drugs into storage, hiding, or onto a mode of transportation.

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Offender Function Categories

Function	Definition
Gopher/lookout/deckhand/worker/employee	Performs very limited, low-level function in the offense (one time, or ongoing); including running errands, answering the telephone, receiving packages, packaging drugs, manual labor, acting as a lookout during meetings, exchanges, or off-loading, or acting as a deckhand/crew member on a vessel or aircraft used to transport large quantities of drugs.
Enabler	Plays only a passive role in the offense, knowingly permitting certain unlawful activity to occur without affirmatively acting in any way to further the activity, may be coerced or unduly influenced to participate (<i>e.g.</i> , a parent or grandparent threatened with displacement from home unless they permit the activity to take place), or may do so as a favor without compensation.
User	Possesses a small quantity of drugs apparently for personal use only, performs no apparent function that furthers the overall drug trafficking offense.
Other	Offender does not clearly fit into any of the above function categories.
Missing/indeterminable	Not enough information provided to determine the offender's function.

