

Purpose:

To generate contemporaneous notes on the evidence examined, and to generate a report stating the findings and opinions of the analyst.

Responsibility:

Forensic Science Examiners and other laboratory personnel assigned to the Firearms Unit.

Procedure:**A. General**

An examination report will be completed for each case analyzed by the Firearms Unit. The report will be saved in JusticeTrax (LIMS) and will be prepared as soon as possible after completion of the examination process. The report should be scientific, easy to read, and grammatically correct. The conclusions of the examination must be conveyed in a manner that is reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously and objectively. The report will include all the information of the analysis conducted and the methodology used.

There are various types of analysis conducted in the Firearms Unit and there are different levels of reporting for these different testing methodologies. The analyst should refer to the following SOPs for guidance on the reporting for the following:

- a. Microscopic comparison – refer to FA SOP-25 (Range of Conclusions)
- b. Operability testing – refer to FA SOP-08 (Testing for Operability)
- c. Serial number restoration – refer to FA SOP-26 (Serial Number Restoration)
- d. NIBIN acquisition and correlation – refer to FA SOP-22 (NIBIN)

B. Report Contents

The report may include the following information (Note: Starred items are required per GL 18):

- a. Name and address of the Division*
- b. Title*
- c. Division case number*
- d. Name and address of the submitting agency*
- e. Agency case number*
- f. Town of incident
- g. Date of request*
- h. Date of report*
- i. Description of the item(s) tested*
- j. Identification of the test method used*
- k. Results obtained*
- l. Disposition of the evidence

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

- m. Opinion/conclusion statement*
 - n. Name, title, and signature¹ of analyst and technical reviewer*
- C. The case file will contain all pertinent information to support the findings. This may include:
- a. A copy of the completed report
 - b. Technical and Administrative Review Checklist (QR FA-9)
 - c. Firearms Unit worksheet(s)
 - d. Notes
 - e. Photographs
 - f. NIBIN data, if applicable
 - g. Verification worksheet (QR FA-5), if applicable
 - h. Documentation of the barcode label on the evidence packaging
 - i. Evidence receipt(s)
 - j. Request for Analysis sheets (SOP-ER-02)
 - k. Other supporting documentation as needed
- D. All digital files and pictures will be stored in Completed Case Files on the FAH drive and backed up by the IT Unit.
- E. Communications with the customer, such as a detective, attorney, etc., should be documented either in the Case Info section of JusticeTrax or in a note in the case jacket.
- F. Upon completion of the case and report, the case jacket will be forwarded to the Technical Reviewer and Administrative Reviewer for their evaluation. This may sometimes be the same individual. Refer to GL-18 for guidance on technical and administrative reviews. The reviewers will use the QR FA-9 worksheet to document their technical review and administrative review, and will release the milestone in JusticeTrax upon completion of each review.
- a. The technical reviewer's initials are not required on all the pages. The completion of QR FA-9 will indicate that a technical review of all pages in the case jacket was conducted.
 - b. During the technical review of NIBIN leads listed on the NIBIN Screening worksheet (QR-10), the technical reviewer may place a check mark on all the cases when checking to see if the cases were related in JusticeTrax. The technical review will only place one set of initials and dates for the checkmarks.
 - c. When a reviewer notes a change or correction, the case jacket will be clearly annotated by the reviewer with the date and initials. Additionally, when the change is made the analyst will initial and date the change.

- G. At the completion of the Administrative Review and the final report has been added to the case folder, the entire case jacket will be scanned and saved in Completed Case Files on the FAH drive to be available for court discovery requests.

References:

1. GL 13 General Evidence Handling
2. GL 18 Case Reviews

- 1.