



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE NOTICE 2020-05 August 3, 2020

REGARDING FIREARMS ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS CONTAINING ONLY FIRED CARTRIDGE CASES

Effective immediately, the SLED Firearms Department will transition to a new procedure for handling submissions containing only fired cartridge cases. This change not only applies to future submissions but also includes submissions currently at the SLED Laboratory awaiting analysis. This does not include cases where firearms and/or bullets are also submitted.

Traditionally, submissions containing *only* fired cartridge cases have been given a full Firearms Examination, with entry in to the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) being the final step. IBIS entry can be the most helpful part of the examination producing meaningful investigative leads.

In an effort to streamline analysis, work more efficiently, and provide your Agency with the key information needed in a more timely manner, submissions of evidence where *only fired cartridge cases* are submitted will now be handled via the IBIS Triage program. These cases will no longer automatically receive full Firearms Analysis. Cases routed through the IBIS Triage program are typically completed within a fraction of the time as cases routed for full Firearms Examination.

Exceptions: If your Agency needs full analysis on a specific case, please indicate such on the evidence submission documents and that case will be assigned appropriately. If a previously submitted case that was handled via the IBIS Triage program is added to the court docket and a formal report is needed for trial, the evidence will need to be resubmitted for full Firearms Analysis at that time. These submissions will receive expedited analysis. In these instances, please allow 45 days for the completion of analysis.