



INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY FORENSIC SERVICES AGENCY

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EVIDENCE SUBMISSION GUIDELINE #14

NIBIN EVIDENCE

(National Integrated Ballistics Information Network)

INTRODUCTION: Historically, firearm examiners were limited in their ability to associate firearms or fired cartridge cases from separate incidents unless an investigative lead was developed to warrant a comparison of the evidence. NIBIN is a database-driven multimedia imaging system designed for capturing the markings on a fired cartridge case after being fired in a firearm. As a result, NIBIN increases the effectiveness of the firearms examiner. This technology enables the firearm examiners to connect otherwise unrelated shooting events in the same city and/or between two different cities. In addition, by comparing the images, an examiner can establish a connection to a specific firearm that may lead to an individual involved resulting in complete resolution of an unsolved shooting event.

The I-MCFSA currently utilizes the BrassTrax-3D workstation to enter firearm test shots and evidence fired cartridge cases into the NIBIN system which is automatically compared to participating laboratories within the State of Indiana, and nationally and internationally upon request.

To insure that the appropriate analysis is completed, the contributor must submit a request card. This request card can be completed electronically, at the IMPD property room desk or at the laboratory.

This guideline was designed to assist the contributor in the areas of preservation, packaging and submission for NIBIN entry. Any situation not sufficiently explained to your specific needs may be handled on an individual basis by contacting the laboratory at (317) 327-3670 or the Firearms Section Supervisor at (317) 327-3777.

A. FIREARMS – GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS:

As important as physical evidence may be, **safety is of greater concern**. When practical, always render a firearm safe to handle before proceeding with further investigation, examination and packaging. There is no instance in which a loaded firearm will be accepted by the laboratory. However, if a firearm cannot be unloaded, by appointment only, the contributor may bring it to the laboratory to meet with firearm section personnel.

1. Unloading the Firearm:

- a. Semiautomatic / Full-Automatic – Note the positions of any manual safety devices or cocking indicators. Carefully disengage the magazine and remove it from the firearm. Open the action by pulling the slide to the rear and visually check the chamber for a cartridge or fired cartridge case. If possible, lock the slide to the rear and insert a plastic zip-tie into the ejection port and down through the magazine well. Then carefully release the slide forward and engage any manual safety devices that may be on the firearm.

NOTE: Make sure no unfired cartridge is left in the chamber.

2. Marking of Firearms:

- a. I-MCFSA recommends not marking the firearm. As an alternative to marking / engraving on the firearm, use the serial number for later identification or affix a tag to the trigger guard.
3. Packaging of Firearm and Delivery to the Laboratory:
 - a. All firearms shall be properly packaged upon submittal to the laboratory or the IMPD property room. Suitable packaging for firearms include: boxes, manila envelopes and paper wrapping.
 - b. Firearms recovered in water should be submitted in the same water within a watertight container. However, the firearms section must be contacted prior to submission to expedite water repellent procedures. Additionally, the firearms section must be advised of the loaded condition of the firearm.

B. SUBMISSION CRITERIA:

1. No shotguns or revolvers will be accepted for entry into NIBIN at this time.
2. No rifle calibers will be accepted or entered into NIBIN at this time except 7.62 x 39 mm caliber fired cartridge cases for "Cold Cases" only (defined as over five years old).
3. I-MCFSA is not capable of entering fired bullets into NIBIN at this time.
4. Firearm test shots from the following semiautomatic / full-automatic pistol calibers deemed suitable for entry will be entered into NIBIN: 5.7 mm, 30 caliber pistol calibers, 32 Automatic, 380 Automatic, 38 Auto, 38 Super, all 9 mm class calibers, 357 SIG, 40 Smith & Wesson, 10 mm, 44 Auto Mag, 45 GAP and 50AE.
5. Fired cartridge cases recovered from crime scenes which are normally associated with semiautomatic / full-automatic firearms deemed suitable for entry will be entered into NIBIN: 5.7 mm, 30 caliber pistol calibers, 32 Automatic, 380 Automatic, 38 Auto, 38 Super, all 9 mm class calibers, 357 SIG, 40 Smith & Wesson, 10 mm, 44 Auto Mag, 45 GAP and 50AE.

C. FIRED CARTRIDGE CASES – GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS:

1. Fired cartridge cases should always be handled with the utmost care to avoid destroying the microscopic information on the cartridge case. They should be packaged in a sealed paper envelope or pillbox, and the container marked for identification. The fired cartridge case should not be marked due to the possibility of destroying valuable evidence. If **BIOHAZARD** is a concern, it must be clearly marked on the packaging.

Evidence Submission Guideline #14 adapted from Indiana State Police Laboratory Physical Evidence Bulletins

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