

## **25.00.025 IBIS/NIBIN TESTING OF FIREARMS**

All submitted firearms meeting Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) test criteria (crime guns) will be test fired and the cartridge casings submitted to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab (WSP Lab) for entry into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

A “crime gun” for the purpose of this policy is considered to be any semi-automatic pistol or rifle:

- illegally possessed; or
- used in a crime; or
- suspected to have been used in a crime (including firearms that are abandoned or found)

Note: These may also include firearms that have been turned in for destruction or seized in connection with a mental health contact (if they are suspected to have been used in a crime or their proper disposition can only be facilitated through a firearms trace).

All recovered crime guns will be entered into eTrace and cartridge casings into NIBIN as soon as practical.

All eligible firearms will be test fired as soon as practical after being booked into evidence. If the case has been assigned to an investigator, Property/Evidence will notify the investigator of the intent to test the involved firearm. The investigator may request a hold if DNA, latent or other forensic evidence testing needs to be performed before test firing the gun. If a request is made to withhold IBIS testing, the requestor must respond in writing to the Property/Evidence Supervisor and the Forensic Lab Manager with the reason for the hold.

### **Pre-Testing Procedure**

Prior to test firing any crime gun- DNA, latent, or other forensic evidence testing will be done, if requested. IBIS Firearm testing will be conducted by a Department Firearms Instructor or Range Master who will determine the operability of the firearm prior to firing the gun. If the submitted firearm is broken, modified, or deemed unsafe, the firearm will be submitted to the WSP Lab for test firing unless doing so will compromise existing evidence and/or the condition of the firearm.

### **Testing Procedure**

IBIS Firearm testing will be conducted at the BPD Range and all established Range safety protocols will be followed. The case investigator may request to be present during the test fire to witness the process. The Property/Evidence Technician will follow all chain of custody protocols using the current property and evidence management system, QueTel.

### **Testing Results**

The results of the firearm testing will be recorded and documented on an “IBIS Firearm Test Fire Supplemental” form by the Test Firing Officer to include the following information:

- Date
- Time
- Case Number
- Test Firing Officer
- Description of firearm (Type, Make, Model, S/N and Evidence Item #)
- Cartridge Casings Evidence Item #

- Comments/Observations of the firing/condition of firearm

Note: Each "IBIS Firearm Test Fire Supplemental" form will be uploaded to QueTel and LERMS by the Property/Evidence Supervisor or Technician.

### **Other Firearms**

The following will generally not be test-fired:

- Revolvers
- Shotguns
- Bolt action rifles
- BB/pellet guns/Airsoft guns
- Firearms surrendered pursuant to a court order (unless an independent basis exists to believe the gun is a crime gun)
- Firearms surrendered for safekeeping (unless an independent basis exists to believe the gun is a crime gun)
- Firearms involved in officer involved shootings (unless an independent basis exists to believe the gun is a crime gun)
- Firearms used in suicides (unless an independent basis exists to believe the gun is a crime gun)

### **Submission of Cartridge Casings to WSP Crime Lab**

Tested casings will be taken without delay to the WSP Lab for IBIS digital imaging and entry. WSP Lab Reports documenting entry of casing images into NIBIN will be scanned to the corresponding case in LERMS. The case investigator will be notified by the Forensic Lab Manager of any subsequent possible match notification made by the WSP Lab.

Cartridge casings recovered from a crime scene or during an investigation will be booked into Property/Evidence. All recovered cartridge casings will be submitted to WSP Crime Lab for IBIS/NIBIN entry. The investigator will be consulted on any casings from an active investigation prior to any submission.