



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	<input type="text" value="2018-038"/>	Classification:	<input type="text" value="Incident"/>
Non-Conformance Level:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	Section:	<input type="text" value="Toxicology"/>
Date of Discovery:	<input type="text" value="05/16/18"/>	Date of Incident:	<input type="text" value="05/03/18"/>

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2014-02023 2018-05747 2018-05610 2018-05700 2018-05697 2018-05698 2018-06007 2018-05796 2018-05797 2018-05798 2018-05778 2018-05800 2018-05802 2018-05804 2018-05805 2018-05806 2018-05807 2018-05809 2018-05792 2018-05810 2018-05811 2018-05813 2018-05814 2018-05817 2018-05818 2018-05819 2018-05823 2018-05823 2018-05777 2018-05839	011182514 040937118 044286618 045151518 045228718 045572918 046040318 046292818 046338918 046371118 046431018 046533718 046575318 046590818 046597918 046607718 046627518 046660918 046668018 046679318 046683318 046708618 046991718 047008018 047016918 047030818 047071118 047071118 047227518 047487118

Description of Non-conformance:

Upon completion of alcohol analysis on 05/03/2018, container TX2017-00015 was transferred from the analyst's custody to the refrigerator at 14:01. The physical container and its contents (30 child items) were placed into Refrigerator-3 but the chains of custody indicated the container was in Refrigerator-5. This was discovered on 05/16/2018, when evidence was moved from Refrigerator-3 to Refrigerator-5 due to a concern about Refrigerator-3 maintaining temperature within the required range. Container TX2017-00015 was physically removed from Refrigerator-3 and placed into an analyst's custody at 11:43, then placed into Refrigerator-5 at 11:47. The chain of custody entries made on 05/16/2018 correctly reflected these movements. Reviewing the chain of custody after this move showed that, though the container had been in Refrigerator-3 between 05/03/2018 at 14:01 and 05/16/2018 at 11:43, the chain showed it was in Refrigerator-5.

Actions Taken:



LIMS change request forms were filled out by the analyst for all affected cases and IT tickets were submitted. IT added the following comment to the child item chains of custody on the 5/3/2018 transfer at 14:01 back to the refrigerator: "Container TX2017-00015 was physically placed into Refrigerator-3.-CLR 5/30/2018" After discussion with the Toxicology section, section leadership, and the Quality Specialist on 6/15/2018, the analyst color-coded the barcodes that are scanned in order to capture chain of custody transfers into refrigerators. The barcodes for Refrigerator-3 and Refrigerator-5 were similar in size, font, and color. They are now framed in different neon colors and titled with "ALC" or "DRUG" as a visual reminder to analysts when making transfers.

Summary of Root Cause Analysis:

Note: Incidents are documented for tracking purposes and trend analysis. Root Cause Analysis is not required for incidents.

N/A

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

Toxicology evidence items are commonly divided into two refrigerators, blood alcohol analysis and blood screening/confirmatory testing. Which refrigerator the evidence is placed in is based upon the current stage of analysis. Since toxicology analysts are cross-trained to conduct both alcohol and screening/confirmatory testing, there may be instances such as this where it becomes routine to select one refrigerator over another. The color-coding and adding the analytical process name into the refrigerator bar code labels were done to serve as a visual cue and to prevent this from recurring. This administrative incident did not have an impact on the results of analysis because the evidence items involved were stored appropriately under refrigeration.

Section Manager: Dayong Lee

Date: 06/21/18

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 06/21/18

Incidents or Corrective Actions that involve the Biology/DNA section are reviewed by the Technical Leader and CODIS Administrator.



Houston Forensic Science Center
Incident/Corrective Action Report
Quality Division

Technical Leader: N/A
CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: N/A
Date: N/A

Quality Director: Lori Wilson

Date Closed: 06/21/18