



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	<input type="text" value="2019-027"/>	Classification:	<input type="text" value="Incident"/>
Non-Conformance Level:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	Section:	<input type="text" value="Firearms"/>
Date of Discovery:	<input type="text" value="02/28/19"/>	Date of Incident:	<input type="text" value="12/17/18"/>

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable: 2018-07854 (Porter Lee report #19)	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable: 065866918
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Description of Non-conformance:

A firearms analyst examined item 1.1 (a fired 7.62x39mm cartridge case) from FCN 2018-07854 on 12/11/2018 and recorded the firing pin impression as "circular". The "circular" classification was also entered as one of the characteristics used to generate the general rifling characteristics list (GRC list) of possible manufacturers for the firearm used to fire item 1.1. When item 1.1 of FCN 2018-07854 was re-examined on 2/4/2019 as part of a new request, the analyst was able to distinguish the firing pin impression as "hemispherical" rather than "circular". This change in classification of the firing pin shape changes the list of possible firearm manufacturers originally reported.

Actions Taken:

A new GRC list was generated based upon the corrected firing pin classification. The original report for FCN 2018-07854 was amended to include the corrected list of possible manufacturers.



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:

It is often difficult to distinguish a "circular" firing pin impression from a "hemispherical" impression on 7.62x39mm cartridge cases because the characteristics can be very similar. During the initial examination, the determination of "circular" was based on the evaluation of 2 cartridge cases fired in the same firearm as part of a NIBIN Hit Confirmation. When the analyst examined all 14 cartridge cases (Items 1.1-1.2 and 10.1-10.12) from 2018-07854 fired in the same firearm and compared them to another cartridge case that was clearly "circular" and fired in a different firearm, she was able to determine that the 14 cartridge cases were "hemispherical" and that the original cartridge cases she examined belonged to the group of 14 cartridge cases. She was able to observe that the walls of the firing pin impression of the "circular" cartridge case were completely straight and had a flat bottom compared to what was observed in the group of 14 cartridge cases where the walls had a slight curve and a flat bottom. While this finding did impact the reported manufacturers list, all firearms reports containing a GRC list include a statement that the list is an only investigative tool and not all inclusive. The Section Manager reviewed the analyst's findings and found no cause for concern regarding her technical competence. The amended report includes the following wording: "This report has been issued to amend Laboratory Report #19 issued on 12/17/2018. This report has been issued with amendments and/or corrections. This report is being amended to update the list of possible manufacturers and to add the following statement in the NIBIN Details section: "This evidence is typically returned to the submitting agency within five business days of processing". Changes/additions have also been made to the header and footer to reflect the current address of the Houston Forensic Science Center as well as the address where the testing associated to this report was conducted. This report is related to Quality Incident #2019-027. The original report is available at the Houston Forensic Science Center upon request."

Section Manager: Donna Eudaley

Date: 05/08/19

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 05/09/19

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

Technical Leader: N/A

Date: N/A



Houston Forensic Science Center
Incident/Corrective Action Report
Quality Division

CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: N/A

Quality Director: Lori Wilson

Date Closed: 05/09/19