Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	2020-104	**Classification:**	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	**Section:**	Biology/DNA
Date of Discovery:	11/24/20	**Date of Incident:**	11/24/20

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2016-14751	**095737516**

Description of Non-conformance:

A reference sample (item 10.1 from case 2016-14751) was amplified using the GlobalFiler PCR amplification kit, but the associated data will not be used for interpretation or reporting purposes because the associated reagent blank was not able to be amplified using the same amplification kit. The reference was originally amplified using the Identifiler Plus PCR amplification kit in 2016.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

The extract for item 10.1 was already aliquoted when the analyst realized that the reagent blank (RB1_EZ16-0479) tube was empty. While analyst doesn't have specific recall of these exact events, he acknowledged while he believes he typically visually inspects the reagent blank tubes to confirm there is remaining extract. He also acknowledged that he may have pipetted the reference sample into the amplification plate before noticing there wasn't a sufficient amount of extract remaining in the reagent blank. The associated reagent blank was outsourced to a vendor laboratory for Y-STR testing in a separate case from the same extraction set as 2016-14751. While at the time the analyst was aliquoting for amplification he believed the reagent blank had been depleted, subsequent communication with the vendor laboratory confirmed the reagent blank was dried down after Y-STR analysis which is why the tube was empty. While further analysis is technically possible, it was determined to be unnecessary in this case.

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

Actions Taken:
The GlobalFiler data is retained in the case record in accordance with accreditation requirements however the report for case 2016-14751 was issued with the following statement for item 10.1: This sample was not processed further because it did not meet quality assurance standards. No results will be reported for this item. Contact the analyst for further information and see quality report 2020-104. This issue was discussed at the January 7, 2021, technician's meeting where staff was instructed to measure all reagent blanks prior to aliquoting the associated evidence or reference samples, as applicable, in order to prevent recurrence.

Section Manager: Courtney Head **Date:** 12/29/21

Division Director: Amy Castillo **Date:** 12/29/21

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

Technical Leader: Cheron Maxwell **Date:** 12/22/2021

CODIS Administrator: Jennifer Clay **Date:** 12/29/2021

Quality Director: Erika Ziemak **Date Closed:** 12/30/21