



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	<input type="text" value="2022-033"/>	Classification:	<input type="text" value="Incident"/>
Non-Conformance Level:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	Section:	<input type="text" value="Biology/DNA"/>
Date of Discovery:	<input type="text" value="05/10/22"/>	Date of Incident:	<input type="text" value="05/10/22"/>

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2022-03395	032938222

Description of Non-conformance:

While processing an airbag with two swabs, a screening analyst inadvertently broke both swabs causing one swab to fall onto an area of the examination benchtop that had not been decontaminated.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

On May 10, 2022, the screening analyst processed an airbag (item 2) from case 2022-03395. As the screening analyst was swabbing the front area of the airbag with two swabs in an attempt to collect potential DNA, both swabs broke causing one swab to fall onto the examination benchtop directly across from the analyst that was not covered with butcher paper and had not been decontaminated. The analyst made explicit notes in the screening portion of the case file and immediately notified the Screening Supervisor.



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 screening analyst continued to process the airbag using the remaining swab that did not fall onto the examination benchtop. The swab that did not fall onto the benchtop (item 2.1) was portioned and the portion of swab (item 2.1.1) was submitted for DNA analysis. The swab that fell on the benchtop was packaged separately (item 2.2) and was not submitted for DNA analysis.

The Screening Supervisor and analyst determined that analysts need to utilize a larger space to prevent contamination when processing an airbag. If the benchtops by an analyst are available, then the analyst can decontaminate the additional benchtops and cover them with butcher paper to extend the processing space. If the benchtops by an analyst are not available, then the analyst can utilize the alternative light source room for additional processing space. The involved screening analyst has since implemented this plan of action in her subsequent processing of an airbag. The Screening Supervisor and analyst communicated the plan of action in a screening meeting on May 25, 2022.

The report for case 2022-03395 was issued on May 24, 2022 with the following statement for item 2.2: "Due to a sample examination error, this item was not processed further. See quality report 2022-033 for more information."

The screening analyst previously notified the Quality Division of another processing error (see quality report 2022-025). Upon interview, the errors were determined to be isolated occurrences and the analyst articulated her understanding of the need to take extra care when handling items of evidence.

Section Manager: Courtney Head

Date: 08/15/22

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 09/02/22

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

Technical Leader: Cheron Maxwell

Date: 08/02/2022

CODIS Administrator: Jennifer Clay

Date: 08/04/2022

Quality Director: Erika Ziemak

Date Closed: 09/08/22