



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	2022-035	Classification:	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	Section:	Biology/DNA
Date of Discovery:	04/26/22	Date of Incident:	04/13/22

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2020-13966	135763020

Description of Non-conformance:
A screening analyst processed an item of evidence using a reagent prepared by an analyst in training but not authorized to perform casework.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:
On April 13, 2022 a screening analyst processed item 1.1 (“underwear”) from case 2020-13966 using an acid phosphatase (AP) spot test which is a presumptive test for semen. While examining the item of evidence, the screening analyst used the AP spot test reagent prepared that day by an analyst in training.

During review of the case, the technical reviewer discovered that the reagent was prepared by an analyst in training and shared their concern with the Screening Production Leads, the Screening Supervisor, the Technical Leader, and the assigned analyst. The screening analyst was not aware that a reagent prepared and quality control tested by a trainee was not suitable for casework.

The trainee prepared and quality control tested the AP spot test reagent on the day of use, which was documented in the reagent preparation log. The trainee prepared the reagent under the supervision of a Screening Production Lead; however, the Screening Production Lead does not recall being present when the reagent was quality control tested.

The trainee's ability to make that reagent had not yet been vetted through HFSC's training program.



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:

Upon discovery, the screening analyst prepared and quality control tested a fresh batch of the AP spot test reagent, reprocessed the item of evidence, and yielded consistent results.

The report for case 2020-13966 was issued on May 25, 2022 with the following statement included for item 1.1: "A processing error occurred with this item. See quality report 2022-035 for additional information." The Technical Leader was included in correspondence and cognizant of the report statement issued on the report; however, the Technical Leader's approval of the report statement was documented after issuance of the report.

The Screening Supervisor and assigned analyst determined that it is necessary to clearly define which reagents can be used on casework to prevent this situation from occurring. During a screening meeting on June 8, 2022, the Screening Supervisor communicated that training analysts (analysts not authorized for case mentorship) should label reagents with "Training Only" to delineate which reagents cannot be used on casework. Reagents prepared by qualified analysts (analysts authorized for case mentorship) can be used on casework.

Section Manager: Courtney Head

Date: 08/25/22

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: 09/06/22