



**Quality Division Use Only**

Quality Tracking #:	2022-067	Classification:	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	Section:	Toxicology
Date of Discovery:	12/06/22	Date of Incident:	12/06/22

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2022-13708 2022-13734 2022-13735 2022-13737 2022-13738 2022-13739 2022-13740 2022-13742 2022-13743 2022-13744 2022-13746 2022-13747 2022-13749 2022-13750 2022-13751 2022-13753 2022-13754 2022-13755 2022-13756 2022-13757	155179422 154210522 155196922 154225722 155581922 155594822 155228722 155593322 155262022 155584222 155219522 154223322 154634222 154220022 154143022 155208222 155699422 155715122 154620122 155173822

**Description of Non-conformance:**  
 A Toxicology analyst inadvertently left a rack of blood tubes at room temperature for approximately one hour after blood alcohol analysis. The tubes should have been placed back in a refrigerated condition after analysis.

**Additional Information/Follow-Up:**  
 This notification is being tracked as an incident by the Quality Division because the amount of time that the evidence was at room temperature.  
 The evidence was secure with limited access at all times within the Toxicology laboratory.  
 Since the preparation of the samples for blood alcohol analysis was completed at approximately 4PM, the incident does not affect any of the batch data. Additionally, 14 of the 20 blood tubes did not need to proceed to drug screening. The following studies showed no significant difference in blood ethanol concentrations after short-term storage at room temperature (Winek et al. Clin Chem 1983;29:1959-60) and some loss of ethanol concentration upon long-term storage at room temperature (Winek et al. Forensic Sci Int 1996;78:179-85, Shan et al. Forensic Sci Int 2011;211:47-50). Short-term stability of other drugs may vary at room temperature but is mostly stable for four hours (Baselt, 10th ed., Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, Biomedical Publications, 2014).

**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:**

Another toxicology analyst discovered the rack an hour later at approximately 5:05PM and physically placed the ALC Rack 5 in Refrigerator-3 without an electronic COC update. On 12/07/2022 at 7:44:25AM, the toxicology analyst that performed the blood alcohol analysis updated the electronic COC to reflect the physical location of ALC Rack 5 with the following comment:

"ALC Rack 5 was physically placed in Refrigerator-3 by Cassandra Duvall at approximately 5:05PM on 12/06/2022. Updating electronic COC to reflect the physical location."

Section Manager: Dayong Lee

Date: 03/17/23

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 03/28/23

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

Technical Leader: N/A

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quality Director: Jackeline Moral

Date Closed: 04/12/23