



**Quality Division Use Only**

Quality Tracking #:	2024-003	Classification:	Incident
Risk Level:	Low	Section:	Firearms
Date of Discovery:	02/27/24	Date of Incident:	10/11/23

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2022-05183 2022-08253	055623322 089651322

**Description of Non-conformance:**  
A firearms analyst did not fulfill an investigator's request for a general rifling characteristics list (GRC list) for (FCN) 2022-05183 request 0003, leading to its omission from the report.

**Additional Information/Follow-Up:**  
A GRC list can be generated for fired cartridge cases or bullets. The fired evidence information is entered into the General Rifling Characteristics database maintained by the FBI. A GRC list can provide a list of possible firearm manufacturers, although the list may not be all inclusive. When requested, HFSC's Firearms section provides the GRC list as an appendix attached to the firearms report.

Requests for GRC lists are made by stakeholders via the Where's My Results Portal by selecting the "Manufacturer's List" checkbox. When a request is approved, the services requested are pulled into the JusticeTrax request. Firearms examiners are responsible for reviewing and completing the requested services, or communicating with the stakeholder if a service cannot be completed. The stakeholder requested a GRC list as part of request 0003 of forensic case number (FCN) 2022-05183 in addition to a request for a comparison of fired evidence to fired evidence from FCN 2022-08253. The comparison request was completed and reported. However, the GRC database was not searched, and the report did not include a GSR list of possible manufacturers.

To assess whether this was likely to have been a one-time occurrence vs a system issue, either for the analyst or for the section, a review of firearm examination post-mortem case record audits was conducted. Approximately 138 firearms examination requests have been reviewed between 2020 and 2024 as part of HFSC's post-mortem audit program. No instances of requests for GRC lists being missed were identified when post-mortem audit defects and comments were reviewed as part of this workflow. Based on this review, this appears to be a one-time occurrence rather than a systemic problem.



**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 analyst provided the GRC to the stakeholder in a supplement report (report 0005) issued on 04/09/2024 and added to the following statement to the report header:

This is a supplemental report to report 0003 of 2022-05183 issued on 10/11/2023. This supplemental report provides GRC information for fired cartridge case Items 001-01 - 001-10 and fired bullet Items 004-02 - 004-04, 004-07, and 005. Comparisons involving these items were provided in report 0003. of 2022-05183. Items 001-01 - 001-10, 004-01 - 004-09, and 005 were not received or examined as part of this request. See Quality Incident Report 2024-003 for additional information.

HFSC provided a copy of the report to the Harris County District Attorney's Office (HCDAO) to comply with a request for records.

Section Manager: Donna Eudaley

Date: 04/16/24

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 04/22/24

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: 04/23/24