



Houston Forensic Science Center

INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Lori Wilson, Quality Director

From: Callan Hundl, Quality Specialist

Date: October 22, 2018

Re: 2018 Quarter III Blind QC Report

The Houston Forensic Science Center facilitates a blind quality control program to ensure continuous quality improvement, test the company's entire quality management system, strengthen the proficiency testing program, add confidence to staff testimony, and evaluate the competence and performance of staff. All of this in return confirms to HFSC's stakeholders that we provide them with accurate and reliable results in normal casework.

The table below shows the number of blind QC cases that have been created by the Houston Forensic Science Center's Quality Division, dropped into the system like normal casework, and completed by the analysts as blind proficiency tests between July 1 and September 30, 2018. During the third quarter of 2018, 101 of the 102 total blind QC cases were completed without analysts knowing they were working a blind case. The case that was not completed blind was discovered by the analyst due to packaging that was not consistent with normal casework.

Section	Dropped	Completed	Satisfactory	No. Completed Blind
Toxicology	40	40	40	40
Seized Drugs	9	16	16	16
Biology (screening/DNA)	2	7	7	7
Firearms Blind QC	3	4	4	3
Firearms Blind Verification	2	2	2	2
Latent Print Processing	9	5	5	5
Latent Print Comparison	30	25	25	25
Digital Forensics	3	2	2	2
Forensic Multimedia	3	1	1	1

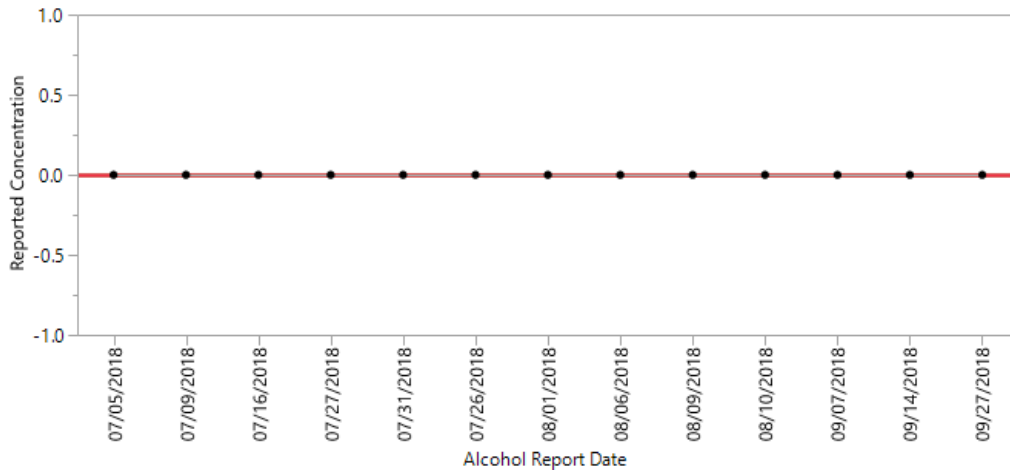
*Note: Two Forensic Multimedia cases were completed during this quarter however, due to additional pending assignments for other sections, the results (which are kept on external drives and considered evidence) were not reviewed during this quarter. These cases will be reported on the next quarterly report.

Toxicology

Alcohol Batches with Blind QCs	Headspace Used	Hamilton Pipette Used
ALC_20180627_DM	3	7903
ALC_20180629_CLR	3	7903
ALC_20180702_DM	3	7903
ALC_20180709_AAJ	3	7903
ALC_20180716_CLR	3	7903
ALC_20180717_AAJ	2	7903
ALC_20180718_DM	2	7903
ALC_20180719_AAJ	3	7903
ALC_20180720_CLR	2	7903
ALC_20180724_CLR	2	7903
ALC_20180725_AAJ	3	7903
ALC_20180727_DM	3	7903
ALC_20180821_CLR	3	7903
ALC_20180822_AAJ	3	7903
ALC_20180823_CLR	3	1742
ALC_20180828_CLR	3	1742
ALC_20180830_AAJ	3	1742
ALC_20180912_AAJ	3	1742
ALC_20180917_ASG	3	1742

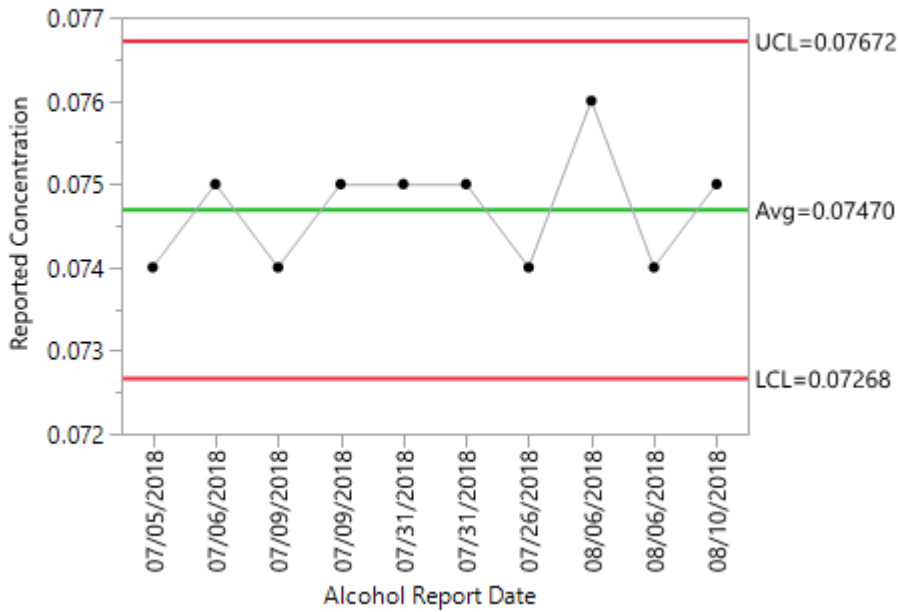
Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor=0.0000

Levey Jennings of Reported Concentration



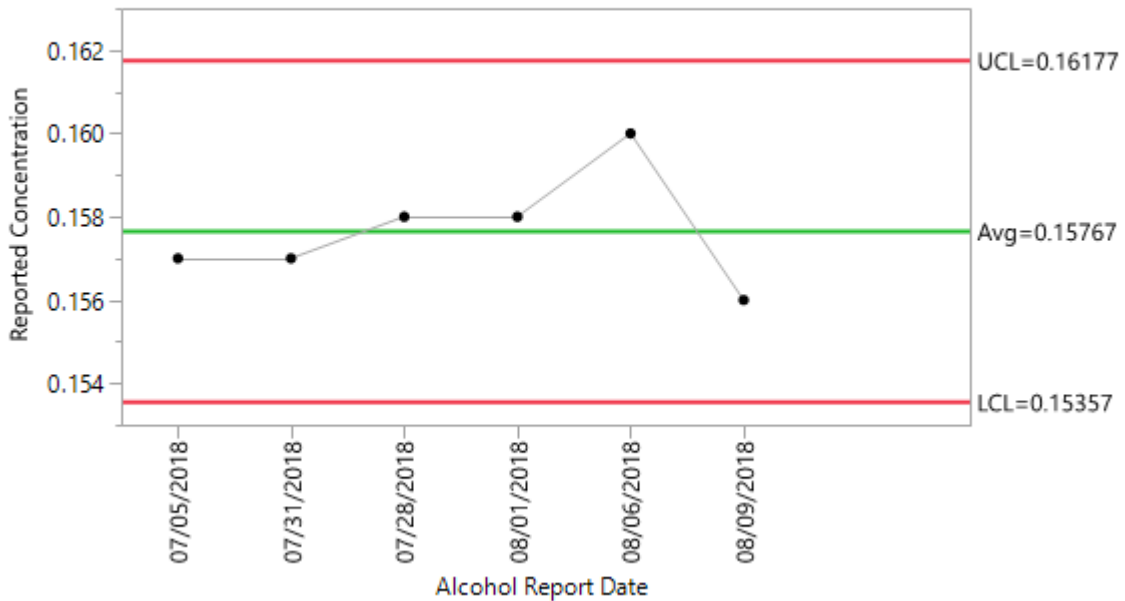
Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor=0.08%; BZE, COC

Levey Jennings of Reported Concentration



Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor=0.1600

Levey Jennings of Reported Concentration



A new sample set of blood tubes was incorporated during this quarter however due to a limited sample size of results, control charts for those concentrations were not generated. The charts above were generated from the previous sample set of blood tubes.

ELISA Batches with Blind QCs (Drug Tox)
EIA_20180611B_CLR
EIA_20180702B_AAJ
EIA_20180717B_CLR
EIA_20180803B_AAJ

Note: All toxicology cases are analyzed for alcohol. If the result of alcohol analysis yields a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10% or lower, the sample is automatically screened for the presence of drugs by the HFSC Toxicology section. If the immunoassay screen is positive for drugs, the sample is either outsourced to NMS Laboratory for confirmatory testing or confirmed in-house. Therefore, some of the blind QC cases have reports for alcohol analysis and drug toxicology.

The tables below depict the names of staff members who have participated in blind QCs in this quarter and may include the reagents and software used in the case.

Seized Drugs

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed
Michael Salazar	2
Stephanie Galioto	2
Brook Knapp	2
Jazmyne McKenzie	1
Cloressa Kelly	2
David Huang	1
Angelica Noyola	4
Mariam Kane	2

After several seized drug blind QCs were discovered by the analysts in the previous quarter, the program was temporarily put on hold during this quarter to allow the Quality Division time to implement changes to the program in order to keep future cases blind and better mimic normal casework.

Firearms Blind QCs

Comparison	Microscope	Primary Examiner Result	Second Examiner Result	Caliper	Primary Examiner	Second Examiner
1	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a	Lucy Tea	Melissa Nally
2	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
3	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
4	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
5	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
6	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
7	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
8	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		

9	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
10	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
11	4, 5	Inc	Inc	n/a		
12	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
13	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
14	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
15	4, 7	ID	ID	n/a		
16	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
17	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
18	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
19	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
20	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
21	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
22	4, 7	Inc	Inc	n/a		
1	7, 4	ID	ID	n/a	Melissa Nally	Lucy Tea
2	7, 4	ID	ID	n/a		
3	7, 4	ID	ID	n/a		
4	7, 4	Elim	Elim	n/a		
1	6, 1	Insuf	Insuf	n/a	Ryan Hookano	Kim Downs
2	6, 1	ID	ID	n/a		
3	6, 1	ID	ID	n/a		
4	6, 1	ID	ID	n/a		
5	6, 1	ID	ID	n/a		
6	6, 1	Elim	Elim	n/a		
7	6, 1	Inc	Inc	6		
8	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
9	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
10	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
11	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
12	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
13	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
14	6, 1	Elim	Elim	n/a		
15	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
16	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
17	6, 1	Inc	Inc	n/a		
1	1, 2	Elim	Elim	n/a	Kim Downs	Chandler Bassett
2	1, 2	Elim	Elim	n/a		
3	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
4	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
5	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
6	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		

7	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
8	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
9	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
10	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
11	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
12	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
13	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
14	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
15	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
16	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
17	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
18	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
19	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
20	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
21	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
22	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
23	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
24	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
25	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
26	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
27	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
28	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
29	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
30	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
31	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
32	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
33	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
34	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
35	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
36	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
37	1, 2	Inc	Inc	5		
38	1, 2	Elim	Elim	n/a		
39	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
40	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
41	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
42	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
43	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
44	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
45	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
46	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
47	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		

48	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
49	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
50	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
51	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
52	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
53	1, 2	Inc	Inc	n/a		
54	1, 2	Elim	Elim	n/a		

Firearms Blind Verification

Forensic Case Number	Agency Case Number	Primary Examiner	Second Examiner
2018-09596	081983818	Chandler Bassett	Michelle Ayala
2018-11732	102795618	Ryan Hookano	Melissa Nally

Note: For Firearms blind verification, the second examiner is aware they are conducting the verification. However, the primary examiner's conclusions are masked. Therefore, the secondary examiner is making his/her own conclusions separately and independently from the primary examiner's conclusions. All blind verifications were conducted on actual casework.

Latent Print Processing

Sequential Processes	Date Processed	Analyst
Vis/White, Cyanoacrylate, R6G (IND and Ninhydrin for paper portion only)	8/9/2018	Jonathan Petranek
Vis/White, Cyanoacrylate, R6G	9/11/2018	Adam Whitman
Vis/White, Cyanoacrylate, R6G	8/20/2018	Jonathan Petranek
Vis/White, Cyanoacrylate, R6G	7/24/2018	Jonathan Petranek
Vis/White, Cyanoacrylate, R6G	9/18/2018	Jonathan Petranek

Latent Print Comparison

Examiner	Number of Blinds Completed
Brenda Merritt	2
David Hyde	1
Maranda Harper	1
Rebecca Green	12
Stacie Gardner	2
Starla Wyatt	2
Gail Mills	2
Rodney Randall	3

Biology

A concern with the Biology blind QC program is the inadvertent upload of BQC sample profiles to the CODIS database. During this quarter, the BQC program was put on hold to allow Biology management time to create a database upload procedure that would prevent these profiles from uploading past HFSC's staff database to the state or federal levels. The blind QCs that were already in the workflow were monitored by management. The cases that were completed during this quarter with sufficient DNA for interpretation were successfully caught before being uploaded to CODIS.

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed
Andrew Nowicki, Benjamin Cambridge, Brittany Beyer, Rebecca Gonzales	1
Mary Georges, Benjamin Cambridge, Brittany Beyer, Jessica Powers	1
Melissa Abreu, Belinda Salinas, Brittany Beyer, Mary Hall	1
Mary Georges, Belinda Salinas, Daniela Anane- Bediakoh, Cassandra Campelli,	1
Anha Pham, Tania Guerra, Daniela Anane-Bediakoh, India Henry	1
Melissa Abreu, Zoraya Reyes, Mary Hall	1
Tania Guerra, Belinda Salinas, Daniela Anane-Bediakoh, Jessica Powers	1

Digital Forensics

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed	Forensic Equipment Used
Doug Ertons	1	Falcon Workstation, Forensic 3.4, Ramsey Shielded Enclosure, FARADAY3, Cellebrite UFED4PC 7.5.0.845, Cellebrite Physical Analyzer 7.6

Allison Sudik	1	Digital Workstation, FALCON1 Ramsey Shielded Enclosure, FARADAY8 Cellebrite Physical Analyzer v7.8 Cellebrite UFED4PC v7.8
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Forensic Multimedia Unit

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed	Forensic Software	Administrative Software
Spencer Ledesma	1	Amped FIVE Build date: 20180306, Revision: 10717,	Quick Hash V. 2.6.9.2, MediaInfo V. 0.7.99