



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:

Section:

Follow up Date:

Follow up Description:

As part of corrective action report 2021-066 a new process was implemented in the workflow as of December 21, 2021. The new process requires a "Request for Re-extraction" worksheet be completed and verified by an independent analyst prior to the re-portioning of evidence or reference items. Additionally, when permission to consume is granted a documented review of the communication surrounding the consumption as well as a confirmation of the item number/details will be performed by the Screening Supervisor or designee and retained in the case record. This follow-up was conducted to determine if corrective actions for 2021-066 were effective in preventing incorrect sample consumption.

Has the solution been effective?

Please explain below:

A Quality Specialist interviewed the Screening Supervisor who was able to accurately articulate the process change and confirmed its continued effectiveness. The supervisor also added that the Screening Production Leads act as designees when the Screening Supervisor is a verifier on the Request for Re-extraction worksheet. The supervisor directed the Quality Specialist to the 2022 Batch List to generate a list of re-portioning cases since the occurrence of corrective action 2021-066. The Quality Specialist was able to confirm that proper documentation was retained in the case record for each re-portioning case reviewed. A Request for Re-extraction worksheet was completed and verified by an independent analyst prior to the re-portioning of evidence or reference items. Additionally, when permission to consume was granted, the Screening Supervisor or designee documented their review of the communication surrounding the consumption as well as the confirmation of the item number/details. The Quality Specialist also interviewed three DNA analysts who were all able to accurately articulate the process change implemented for re-portioning cases and each directed the Quality Specialist to the Request for Re-extraction worksheet, emphasizing the importance for proper documentation when a sample will be consumed. In addition, the DNA Interpretation Supervisor reiterated to staff at the DNA analyst meeting on July 19, 2022 that a Request for Re-extraction worksheet must be completed prior to re-portioning of evidence or reference items. The Quality Specialist then met with Forensic Biology management on August 18, 2022 to discuss the outcome of the follow-up and informed them that when the supervisor and DNA analysts were interviewed, they were able to articulate the process change due to the corrective action and confirmed its continued effectiveness. Since the occurrence of corrective action 2021-066, there have been no re-occurrences.

Additional follow up needed?

Timeframe:



Houston Forensic Science Center

CAR/IR Follow up Form

Quality Division

Technical Leader: Cheron Maxwell
Section Manager: Courtney Head
Division Director: Amy Castillo
Quality Director: Erika Ziemak

Date: 09/12/2022
Date: 09/20/22
Date: 09/27/22
Date: 09/27/22