



ATF-LS-FT15 Report Wording	Published Online: March 2018
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I. Scope

This Policy is applicable to all Laboratory Services Laboratories.

II. References:

ATF LS Quality Manual
ATF LS 5.10 Reporting the Results
ISO/17025:2011/5.10.5 Opinions and Interpretations

III. Apparatus/Reagents

None.

IV. Safety Precautions

None.

V. Policy

- a. **Required Report Elements** - This guideline describes the information that will be included in reports that contain expert opinions concerning analyses, comparisons, associations, and other interpretations drawn from the analysis of firearm and/or toolmark evidence. The **bases for all conclusions are not required in the report** but should be documented in the work notes, case record or supported by an available reference(s).

All firearm and/or toolmark reports will at a minimum contain the following as appropriate:

- The findings and conclusions should relate clearly to the items tested. Items not analyzed or examined shall be reported as such.
 - When associations are made, the significance of the association shall be clearly communicated in the report.
 - When no definitive conclusions can be reached (e.g., results are “inconclusive”), the reason shall be clearly stated in the report.
 - When comparative examinations result in the elimination of an individual or object, the report shall clearly communicate the elimination.
- b. **Report Wording Examples** - The actual language used in reporting the results of firearm and toolmark examinations may vary from examiner to examiner. Therefore, the examples below are intended for use as report wording samples for the examiner:

Serial Number

Full Restoration of All Characters

- In general, briefly describe the process(es) used. Identify the characters observed.

- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was magnetically and chemically processed, and the serial number 123 was observed.
- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was chemically processed and the serial number was concluded to be 12354.
- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was magnetically and chemically processed. Based on known structure and style of characters, the serial number is concluded to be 12354.
- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was magnetically and chemically processed, and the serial number 123 was restored.

Partial Restoration

- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was magnetically and chemically processed, and the serial number 123*4 was observed, with the * being unknown.
- The obliterated area of Exhibit X was magnetically and chemically processed, and the serial number concluded to be, 123*4, with the * being unknown.

Negative Restoration

- Examination and/or processing of the obliterated area of Exhibit X determined that the serial number is not restorable.

Comparative Examinations

Identification

- Exhibit 003 is a .410 Bore fired shotshell, marketed by Winchester. Microscopic comparisons were conducted between Exhibit 003 and the Exhibit 001 test fires. The Exhibit 003 shotshell was identified as having been fired in the Exhibit 001 shotgun.

OR

Exhibit 003 is a .410 Bore fired shotshell, marketed by Winchester. Microscopic comparisons were conducted between Exhibit 003 and the Exhibit 001 test fires. The Exhibit 003 shotshell was identified as having been fired in the Exhibit 001 shotgun based on the agreement of all discernible class characteristics and the correspondence of sufficient individual characteristics.

- Exhibit 002 is a .223 Remington caliber fired cartridge case, WCC brand. Exhibit 002 was microscopically compared to test cartridge cases fired in Exhibit 001. These comparisons identified Exhibit 002 as having been fired in Exhibit 001.
- Microscopic comparisons of the Exhibit 13, 14, and 15 cartridge cases identified them as having been fired in the same firearm.

Not Identified or Eliminated (Inconclusive)

- Exhibit 003 is consistent with being a .223 Remington caliber, copper jacketed bullet which was fired from a barrel rifled with six (6) grooves, right twist. Exhibit 003 was microscopically compared to test bullets fired from Exhibit 001. There is agreement of all discernible class characteristics; however, the lack of sufficient individual marks precludes an identification. Therefore, Exhibit 003 could neither be identified nor eliminated as having been fired from Exhibit 001.
- Though similar class characteristics were observed, due to a lack of agreement or disagreement of individual characteristics the Exhibit 16 cartridge case could neither be

identified nor eliminated as having been fired in the same firearm as Exhibits 13, 14, and 15.

Elimination/Exclusion

- Exhibits 13 through 16 consist of four (4) 9mm Luger caliber fired cartridge cases, with the headstamps "CBC" and "RG". Microscopic comparisons were conducted between Exhibits 13 through 16 and the Exhibit 5 test fires. These comparisons eliminated the Exhibit 5 pistol as having fired the Exhibit 13 through 16 cartridge cases.
- Exhibits 008A, 008B and 009 were eliminated as having been fired in the Exhibit 001 pistol.
- It was determined that Exhibits 5 through 8 were not fired in the same firearm as Exhibits 1 through 4.
- Exhibits 002-1 and 002-6 through 002-13 and Exhibits 002-2 through 002-5 were eliminated as having been fired in the same firearm.
- The Exhibit CS-03 cartridge case and the Exhibit CS-05 bullet were eliminated as having been fired in/from the Exhibit SW2-01 pistol.

Subclass Associations

- The submitted pistol (Exhibit 1) was test fired with laboratory supply ammunition in order to obtain test fired cartridge cases and bullets. The pistol functioned normally with no obvious defects. The test fires were retained with the evidence as Exhibit 1.T1-1.T4. The submitted bullet (Exhibit 2) is a 38/357 caliber bullet fired from a barrel having six lands and grooves with a right twist. Exhibit 2 was identified as having been fired from a barrel having the same class and subclass characteristics as those in the Exhibit 1. However, based on an insufficient agreement of individual characteristics, no further association between Exhibit 1 and 2 could be made.

Unsuitable for Examination

- Exhibits 002-15, 002-16, 004-2, 004-3, 004-4 and 005 were examined, and no caliber determination could be made and there are insufficient marks of value for comparative purposes.
- Exhibit 7 is a caliber 7.62x39mm fired cartridge case that is unsuitable for microscopic comparison.
- Exhibit 14 is a grey metal fragment with no marks of comparative value.
- Exhibit 10 is a copper bullet jacket fragment that has no value for microscopic comparison or caliber determination.

GSR Pattern Analysis for Muzzle to Target Distance Determination

In general, briefly describe the examination process and state conclusions. When conclusions include measurements the reporting will include variables of measurement or approximations.

Pattern Developed

- The Exhibit ## shirt was (microscopically) examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues. A pattern of gunshot residue was found around a bullet entrance hole located in the right shoulder area (or can list Hole # if more than one). The Exhibit ## firearm was found to produce similar deposits of gunshot residues, when

fired with ammunition similar to the Exhibit ## cartridges, at a target from a **minimum distance of 4" to a maximum of 16"**.

OR

The Exhibit ## shirt was (microscopically) examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues. A pattern of gunshot residue was found around a bullet entrance hole located in the right shoulder area (or can list Hole # if more than one). The Exhibit ## firearm was found to produce similar deposits of gunshot residues, when fired with ammunition similar to the Exhibit ## cartridges, at a target from a distance of **approximately 10"**.

Contact

- The Exhibit ## shirt was found to have a bullet entrance hole in the right shoulder area. Microscopic examination (and chemical processing) of the hole area detected physical effects (and gunshot residue) indicative (consistent, characteristic, etc.) of a contact shot.

Greater than Contact

- The Exhibit ## shirt was found to have a bullet entrance hole in the right shoulder area. Microscopic examination and chemical processing of this hole area detected physical effects and gunshot residue indicative (consistent, characteristic) of the passage of a bullet or a shot greater than contact (close, near contact, etc.).

Hole with Wipe

- The Exhibit ## shirt was found to have a bullet entrance hole in the right shoulder area. Microscopic examination and chemical processing of this hole area detected residues that are indicative of the passage of a bullet.

Negative Results

- Exhibit ## was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues but none were detected (found).

Trajectory

In general, briefly describe examination process (mention all methods used including mathematical calculations) and clearly state results/conclusions. With conclusions that involve measurements, reporting should include method(s) variables of measurement or approximations.