




COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

To: All Law Enforcement Agencies served by DFS
From: Linda Jackson, Department Director 
Date: May 6, 2021
RE: New Packaging Requirements for Firearms and Ammunition Submissions

Recently, cartridges (ammunition) packaged with a firearm accidentally discharged while being transported at DFS. Cartridges pose a potential danger when packaged with the firearm or packaged in a manner that does not prevent the primer from being struck by another object.

Effective immediately, due to safety concerns, DFS will no longer accept evidence packages that contain both a firearm and ammunition/cartridges.

In order to submit cartridges for a comparison examination, package the firearm and cartridges in separate rigid or padded containers. It is not necessary to submit cartridges for NIBIN or Function exams. It is acceptable to leave cartridges in a magazine, packaged in a separate container from the firearm.

If cartridges are being submitted for DNA or Latent Print exams, package them separate from any firearm in a manner which best preserves that type of evidence.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Evidence Receiving Section Supervisor at the DFS Laboratory that provides service to your agency:

Laboratory	Section Contact	Phone Number
Central (Richmond)	Ellen Spain	(804) 588-4027
Eastern (Norfolk)	David Kvello	(757) 355-5967
Northern (Manassas)	Amanda Matthews	(703) 334-9766
Western (Roanoke)	Chris McVey	(540) 283-5906