



Department of Forensic Science

FORENSIC BIOLOGY PROCEDURES MANUAL

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

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- a review of all DNA types to verify that they are supported by the raw or analyzed data (electropherograms or images), except if using an NDIS approved and internally validated Expert System.

An additional documented annual review of Forensic Biology case files independent of the required combined technical and administrative review process and of any external audit conducted in accordance with the FBI Quality Assurance Standards shall be conducted. The scope and plan for this annual review will be determined prior to its start each applicable year and will include a representative sample of cases worked, as determined and approved by the Biology Program Manager (Technical Leader).

An additional documented annual review of Data Bank sample processing records independent of any external audit conducted in accordance with the FBI Quality Assurance Standards shall be conducted. The scope and plan for this annual review will be determined prior to its start each applicable year and will be representative of the samples tested, as determined and approved by the Biology Program Manager (Technical Leader).

The procedure for the monitoring of the testimony of casework examiners is addressed in the Department Quality Manual.

1.13 Testimony Guidance

When asked hypothetical questions that require the consideration of Transfer, Prevalence, Persistence, and Recovery (TPPR) of DNA or activity level propositions, testifying witnesses shall endeavor to communicate that the DNA comparison results (or lack thereof) do not answer questions of “how” or “when” DNA was deposited or speak to its absence. Such testimony could potentially lead to evidence being misleading, overvalued, or undervalued.

Whenever possible, testifying experts shall reiterate that, while they may be able to provide limited general information about TPPR, answering questions about how or when the DNA was deposited (or is absent) in the particular case at hand is outside of the testifying witness’s purview.

1.14 Safety

The policies and procedures for safety in the laboratory are addressed in the Department Safety Manual.

1.15 Audits

The procedure for audits of the Department is addressed in the Department Quality Manual.

A FBI Quality Assurance Audit of the Section is conducted annually, as per the Department Quality Manual.

1.16 Outsourcing

Outsourcing is addressed in the Department Quality Manual.

Technical specifications of the outsourcing agreement are approved by the technical leader prior to the outsourcing agreement being awarded.

A technical review of the vendor’s data is conducted prior to uploading sample profiles into SDIS. The following elements are included in the technical review:

- DNA types/haplotypes to ensure they are supported by the analytical data
- Associated controls, ILS and ladder, as applicable to the technology employed
- A review of the final report if provided by the vendor
- Verification of the DNA types/haplotypes, eligibility and correct specimen categories for entry to CODIS

A documented initial on-site visit to assess the vendor laboratory’s ability to perform analysis on outsourced casework, prior to the vendor laboratory’s beginning of casework analysis will be conducted by the Biology