



## NJSP BALLISTICS UNIT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The New Jersey State Police Ballistics Unit utilizes the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) to potentially associate evidence in previously unlinked crimes and compares them to a national database of images called the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). In 2017, the NJSP Ballistics Unit implemented a screening process to better focus available resources to provide more timely investigative lead information. This screening process groups cartridge cases based on similar characteristics and a representative cartridge case from each group will be imaged into NIBIN. This process occurs at the front end of analysis with the goal to have all NIBIN eligible items entered into the NIBIN system within 48 hours of receipt by the laboratory.

**Effective July 1, 2022**, the NJSP Ballistics Unit is implementing an additional screening process to limit what type of evidence is submitted to and returned from the unit. Implementing this process will allow the unit to provide more timely investigative leads and a better, more efficient product overall.

- I. The following evidence will be routinely accepted for further examination and comparative analysis following screening:
  - Evidence associated with the following
    - Homicides
    - Violent crimes involving a firearm
    - Bail Reform
    - Semiautomatic firearms (NIBIN)
    - Attempted Homicides with victim and/or suspect
    - Robbery/Home Invasion
  - Discharged cartridge case(s) meeting the above criteria will be submitted, entered into NIBIN and retained at Ballistics for further examination.
  - Discharged cartridge case(s) that do not meet the above criteria will be submitted, entered into NIBIN, and returned to the submitting agency.
  - Evidence screened for all other offenses will be returned to the agency after screening completion.
- II. The following evidence will not be routinely accepted for analysis:
  - Firearms involved in suicides or attempted suicides, unless they are considered suspicious.
  - Revolvers, black powder firearms, replica firearms, pellet/airsoft guns, bolt action firearms, lever action firearms, pump action firearms, derringer pistols.
  - Firearms seized or collected for safekeeping, except for State Police cases (as per NJSP policy).



- Live ammunition, unless it is a hollowpoint; in which case only one would be accepted for identification purposes.
- Discharged cartridge cases removed from the cylinder of a revolver or chamber of any firearm.
- Bullets/fragments not accompanied by any other components/firearms.

In addition to evidence newly submitted, previously submitted evidence still pending examination will also undergo this same screening process.

The Ballistics Unit recognizes that in some cases, additional analysis or an expedited examination may be necessary beyond the parameters listed above. In such instances or for questions regarding these changes, please contact the following:

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