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## RAPID IBIS FOR LINKAGE EXAMINATION (RIFLE) INFORMATION SHEET

### INTRODUCTION

The RIFLE service is an initiative implemented by the Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS) for the purpose of expediting the notification of preliminary firearm case linkages developed through the Canadian Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (CIBIN) database search.

Cases submitted with the following criteria will be prioritized under this service:

- i) Submission is received at the CFS within 10 days of the occurrence;
- ii) Items are submitted using the CFS streamlined packaging guidelines. Packaging information can be found on the CFS website;
- iii) Submission consists exclusively of agency generated test fires submitted under the Suspicious Firearms Index (SFI) stream or exclusively of cartridge cases from a shooting incident submitted under the Rapid Assessment for IBIS Selection Examination (RAISE) stream;
- iv) The only request is to determine whether the submitted items are linked to another shooting occurrence/recovered firearm previously uploaded on the CIBIN database (i.e., IBIS only);
- v) Items do not require examination by another CFS section;
- vi) Fingerprinting and DNA swabbing , if applicable, has been completed.

The Firearms Unit will issue a reporting product within 15 days of submission to CFS.

Note: Depending on operational capacity, additional case types may be examined and reported on as outlined in the 'EXAMINATION' and 'REPORTING' sections below. For these cases, the reporting product may exceed 15 days as the criteria specified above has not been met.

### EXAMINATION

Cases are examined as outlined in the SFI and RAISE streams. Information on the examination processes for these streams can be found on the CFS website.

Based on the examination, where applicable, select items are acquired onto IBIS and a general search against previously uploaded cases within the CIBIN database is conducted. If a possible hit develops, the RIFLE streamlined service would involve an on-screen review of the cases using the MatchPoint system. Three outcomes are possible:

- A preliminary linkage is developed;
- A preliminary linkage is not developed; or
- Further comparison is required using the physical items and use of a comparison microscope. In this scenario, the comparison is diverted from the RIFLE stream and into the regular process stream.

### REPORTING

- **IBIS Notification Letter** – a letter confirming items have been uploaded to the CIBIN database. Details such as calibre, type or number of firearms that discharged the fired ammunition components are not provided.

- **Firearms Investigative Aid Notification Letter** – a letter notifying the client that a preliminary linkage has been developed between two or more cases. The linkage will be reviewed by a Firearms Scientist but will not be subject to verification by a second Firearms Scientist. If the submitter requires confirmation of a preliminary linkage, a request for a confirmation of the preliminary results must be submitted to the Firearms Unit.

## LIMITATIONS

In some instances, a case may require additional work that cannot be completed within the turnaround timeframe of the RIFLE stream. Examples of such instances include;

- Possible linkages to a case(s) that cannot be completed on-screen and requires a microscopic comparison;
- Cases where the submitted items require examination by another section;
- Request to search against the United States ballistics database, known as the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN);
- Cases where a specific cross-reference was requested; or
- Additional items or change in examination process is required (e.g., request for additional test fires/submission of the firearm).

**Note: Cases that do not meet the RIFLE case acceptance criteria and require microscopic comparisons can result in longer reporting times.**