



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY CUSTOMER NOTICE 2017-02

GUNSHOT RESIDUE CORRECTIVE ACTION - EXPANDED REVIEW April 19, 2017

On March 17th, 2017 the SLED Forensic Services Laboratory began notifying our customers of an ongoing Corrective Action regarding Gunshot Residue Analysis. The particular concerns have been isolated to one analyst on the current analytical platform. This analyst has since resigned from the Forensic Services Laboratory as a result of this investigation. As part of the Corrective Action, a case audit had been conducted that consisted of a combination of a paper and/or digital data review of all cases previously reported by this analyst. The goal of this audit was to identify those cases that were impacted and may require reanalysis. The initial review of 227 cases resulted in 34 cases identified where SLED requested resubmission of evidence for reanalysis. Not all cases were subject to digital review during the initial audit.

On Thursday, April 13th, 2017 an additional case was identified which requires resubmission. As a result of this finding, we are expanding the digital review to all cases analyzed by this analyst on this platform. Solicitors and Submitters have been previously notified of those cases from their jurisdictions that have been potentially impacted as a result of the initial audit. If additional cases are identified through this expanded digital review, we will continue to notify our customers of these specific cases. We anticipate this digital review of remaining cases will take a minimum of one month but we will continue until the expanded review and reanalysis of resubmitted cases is complete. As appropriate, a corrected, supplemental, or reexamination report will be issued for those cases that undergo reanalysis.

This matter is of utmost concern to our laboratory and was discovered through our quality system. Our goal is to be thorough with the ongoing corrective action process to ensure we have identified all impacted cases and have implemented the proper measures to prevent this type of issue from occurring in the future.

Please contact Capt. Wendy Bell for additional inquiries or questions at 803-896-7277 or wbell@sled.sc.gov.