



## GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3121 Panthersville Road  
P.O. Box 370808  
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

**D. Victor Reynolds**  
*Director*

### **GBI CRIME LAB OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2020-02 FIREARMS SERVICE UPDATE February 28, 2020**

The Firearms Discipline 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).

**Effective March 15, 2020**, the GBI Crime Laboratory will be implementing a screening process to better focus available resources to provide more timely investigative lead information. This screening process will group cartridge cases based on similar characteristics and a representative cartridge case from each group will be imaged on to NIBIN. This process will occur at the front end of analysis with the goal to have all NIBIN eligible items entered on the NIBIN system within 48 hours of receipt by the laboratory.

Implementation of this process will include the following changes to operations for items undergoing this screening:

- Microscopic comparisons between cartridge cases or cartridge cases to firearms will not be performed routinely
- Bullets submitted will not be routinely examined
- Evidence for the following offenses will remain at the laboratory for further examination and comparative analysis following screening.
  - o Homicide
  - o Crimes against Children
  - o Expedited requests
  - o Generated NIBIN Leads
- Evidence screened for all other offenses will be returned to the agency after screening completion.

In addition to evidence newly submitted to the laboratory after March 15, 2020, open firearms services currently submitted to the laboratory will also undergo this same screening process.

Customers will be notified that the NIBIN screening process was conducted via NIBIN reports issued on our reporting website. These reports will indicate which items were entered on NIBIN and if any NIBIN leads were discovered.

For further information regarding the NIBIN process, please refer to the Firearm and Toolmark Services manual on our website, <https://dofs-gbi.georgia.gov/general-information/service-manual>.



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Any questions regarding the NIBIN program at the GBI should be referred to the NIBIN Program Administrator listed below:

Jennifer Murphy      [Jennifer.Murphy@gbj.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Murphy@gbj.gov)      (404) 270-8279

The Firearms Discipline is also implementing the following changes to analysis of additional evidence types outside the scope of the NIBIN program.

- Analysis for Muzzle to Target Distance Determination cases will only be performed after consultation and approval of the Firearms Discipline manager or designee.
- Bullets submitted for analysis during the initial examination, will be limited to bullets recovered from a gunshot victim (recovered during autopsy/hospital, etc.).

The laboratory recognizes that in some cases, additional analysis may be necessary beyond NIBIN screening and other listed routine services. In such instances or for questions regarding these changes, please contact the Firearms Manager or Regional Lab designee that provides service to your agency.

HQ (Decatur) Discipline Manager

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Please forward this bulletin to all individuals within your organization who may be impacted by these changes.

If you have any questions or concerns about this bulletin, please contact me at [Cleveland.Miles@gbj.ga.gov](mailto:Cleveland.Miles@gbj.ga.gov) or 404-270-8082.

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