



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2008-01 TRACE EVIDENCE SECTION GUNSHOT PRIMER RESIDUE (GSR) EVIDENCE DECEMBER 1, 2008

New Gunshot Residue Collection Kits (GSR Kits) and Procedures

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Division of Forensic Science (GBI-DOFS) has awarded a contract to Tri-Tech Inc (1-800-438-7884 or www.tritechusa.com) to produce a GSR collection kit approved for submission to the GBI Crime Laboratory. These kits will replace the collection kits previously manufactured by Sirchie (GAGSR20) as the approved kit of the GBI-DOFS. As of this date, agencies should purchase only the Tri-Tech kits for evidence collection and analysis by the GBI Crime Lab. Use order #GSR-AA/SEM(Q)GBI when purchasing the kits from Tri-Tech Inc.

The configuration of the Tri-Tech kits will allow for a decreased analysis time, while increasing quality. Because several changes have been made to the kit and the collection procedures used with the kit, it is essential that all law enforcement officers read the instructions provided within the kit prior to each and every collection.

We encourage you to begin using the new Tri-tech kit immediately; however, Sirchie GAGSR20 kits will still be accepted for a short time. **Effective March 1, 2009 the GBI-DOFS will accept only the new Tri-Tech Inc. GSR-AA/SEM(Q)GBI kit for analysis.** These steps are being taken to ensure the highest quality GSR analyses and results within the state of Georgia.

Gunshot Residue Analysis Operation Policy

Effective March 1, 2009, in order to best manage the resources available to the state and ensure that the most probative information is available to the criminal justice system, GSR analysis will not be routinely conducted on kits collected from individuals who are gunshot victims, including cases of suspected suicide. GSR collected from sources other than hands will not be routinely accepted in the laboratory.

The presence of gunshot residue (GSR) on a person's hands indicates that a person has fired a weapon, come into contact with a firearm or has been in the presence of a firearm during discharge. GSR particles are contained in the vapor cloud surrounding a fired weapon and are also carried with the fired projectile. GSR particles may be deposited on the gunshot victim as well as the shooter. For this reason, any GSR found on samples collected from gunshot victims provides no information of value. GSR analysis cannot distinguish between homicide victims and suicide victims.

In the event that extenuating circumstances do exist, please contact the Trace Evidence Section Manager, Tammy Jergovich at 404-270-8266 or gunshot residue analyst Michael McCarriagher at 404-270-8530.

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