

- Staples, if packaging includes staples, the staples must be removed before being received into the laboratory.

The examining forensic scientist should document the date that each item was permanently resealed in the examination documentation.

Any applicable safety-related stickers or markings should be applied to ensure safe handling.

12.9 Multi-discipline interactions

Evidence may be submitted to the laboratory with assignments for multiple disciplines. Each associated discipline will be assigned accordingly in LIMS.

Case examination documentation for all assigned disciplines should include notations of co-examinations and details of any clean techniques utilized to ensure the integrity of the evidence. The chain of custody includes any transfers of evidence between storage locations and laboratory staff.

In order to ensure the integrity of the evidence for all analysis requested, appropriate PPE must be worn.

The assigned scientists will discuss the item description, case approach and plan to co-examine the evidence. This correspondence should be documented in the individual case record. The following practices are examples of commonly encountered co-assignments that should be utilized. Other co-assignments scenarios exist.

12.9.1 Firearm Evidence

All firearms will be handled as if they are loaded at all times, regardless of any available information on the condition of the firearm.

- All firearms will be examined by a forensic scientist assigned to the Firearms unit prior to being worked by another unit to ensure they are unloaded and safe to handle.
- All firearms will be rendered safe before being returned to the submitting agency.
- The forensic scientist should mark the package indicating it is safe and include their initials and date of examination in an easily viewable location.

Swabbings from firearms may be processed in cases that involve crimes against persons. DNA analysis requests regarding firearms submitted for Carrying a Concealed Weapon

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(CCW) and Weapons Under Disability (WUD) investigations require approval from DNA Laboratory Management.

Upon submission of a firearm with a request for DNA swabbing, at a minimum, FA and FB assignments will be made for the item(s). In addition, a LP assignment request must be approved by Lab Management.

Swabbing firearms and related components will routinely be performed by a scientist from the FB section; however, laboratory management may have a FA scientist perform the swabbings based on the caseloads for the respective sections.

1. The FA Scientist will render the firearm safe, using caution to avoid normally handled areas. If no further FA testing is required, the FA or MS assignment will be admin closed by the FA laboratory supervisor.
2. If a LP assignment exists, the scientist from LP and the scientist performing the swabbings will either discuss the case approach or plan to co-examine the firearm.
3. A case synopsis should be reviewed for any special case circumstances regarding the suspect/victim's interactions with the firearm (For example, whether subject/victim grabbed barrel of weapon). The scientist should collect swabbings with Stain Extraction Buffer (SEB) from the following surfaces and/or any special circumstances identified in the case synopsis:
 - a. Pistols (see Figure 1):
 1. One swab of the trigger/trigger guard
 2. One swab of the textured and smooth areas of the grip
 3. One swab of the back area of slide
 4. One swab from textured buttons, including slide release, magazine release, safety, etc.
 5. One swab of the front sight area



Figure 1 Pistol

- b. Revolvers (see Figure 2):
 1. One swab of the trigger/ trigger guard
 2. One swab of the textured and smooth areas of the grip

3. One swab of the cylinder and textured buttons, including the safety, hammer, ejector rode, etc.
4. One swab of the front sight area

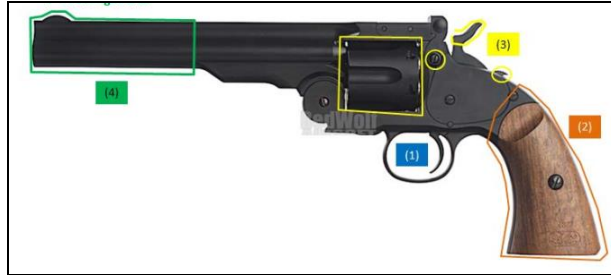


Figure 2 Revolver

- c. Pump Shotgun (see Figure 3)
 1. One swab of the trigger/trigger guard
 2. One swab of the grip area
 3. One swab of the forend/pump. If a bolt action shotgun, alternatively swab the bolt lever
 4. One swab of the breech block and safety. Alternatively, if loaded via barrel breech lever, collect one swab from it
 5. One swab of the front sight area
 6. One swab from the scope eyepiece and scope dials (if applicable)

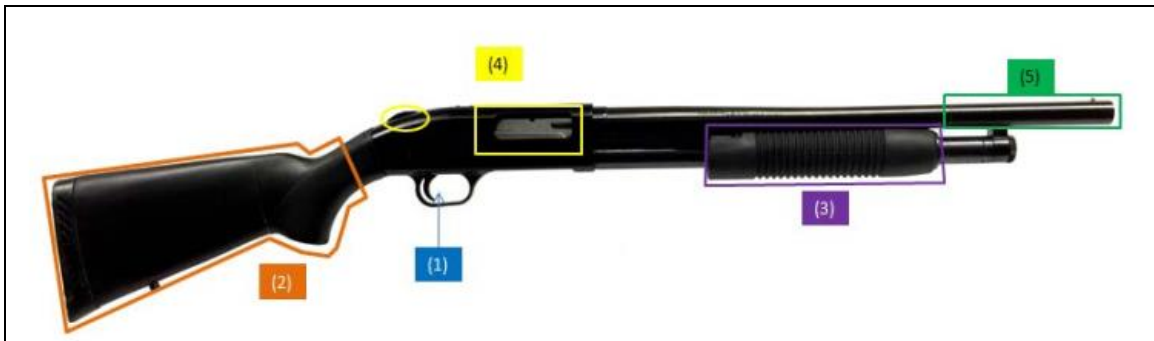


Figure 3 Pump Shotgun

- d. Magazine (see Figure 4)
 1. One swab of the body
 2. One swab of the base

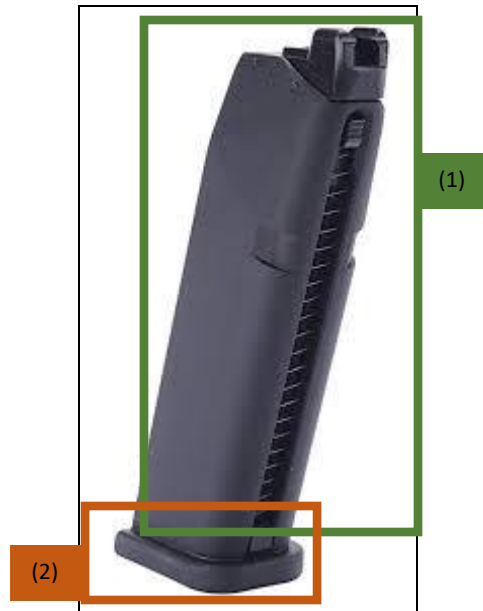


Figure 4 Magazine

1. The collected swabs should then be allowed to dry, tip upright.
2. After examination is complete, the evidence will be sealed and returned to the FA property storage location via a FA scientist.

12.9.1.1 Cartridges

Fired and unfired cartridges (i.e. rounds) will not be accepted for LP examination. If cartridges are enclosed in the magazine, the following approach may be used:

1. The LP scientist will process the magazine with the cartridges enclosed using sterile technique.
2. If DNA testing is necessary, the FB scientist will remove the cartridges and collect one swab using Stain Extraction Buffer (SEB). Alternatively, the modified method of recovery for cartridge cases may be used with approval from the DNA Technical Leader.

12.9.2 Drug Evidence

Swabbings from drug packaging or paraphernalia may be processed. This examination takes place in the Drug Chemistry Lab, to ensure safe handling of the item. A forensic scientist assigned to the Chemistry Unit will work alongside a forensic scientist assigned to the DNA section to ensure the associated drug packaging is sampled using clean technique and preserved if able. Alternatively, a forensic scientist assigned to the Chemistry Unit will ensure clean technique in any collection of samples for DNA from the packaging and notate the state of preservation.