



BCI Laboratory Database Searches
NIBIN

Ohio BCI's participation in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), is governed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

I. Database Entry Considerations

Law Enforcement Agencies utilizing BCI for NIBIN entry must establish access to eTrace (MOU with ATF)

- Information regarding the recovered firearm must be entered into eTrace prior to submitting the evidence to BCI for NIBIN entry (information regarding eTrace can be found at www.atf.gov/firearms/tools-services-law-enforcement)

In order to consider images from cartridge cases from a crime scene submitted for NIBIN entry:

- The cartridge case must be suitable for comparison
- The cartridge case must be from semi or full automatic firearms or 12 Gauge shotguns
- The cartridge case is not associated with any known firearm

Bullets are not entered into NIBIN.

Firearms recovered from a crime scene or found property (i.e. abandoned or discarded firearm):

- Shall be test fired by the Law Enforcement Agency and the test fired cartridge cases should be submitted to BCI for NIBIN entry as expeditiously as practicable.
- At least two test fired cartridge cases should be obtained from the firearm.
- To preserve any potential DNA evidence for future testing, swabs should be collected from handled areas of the firearm prior to test firing. Collect swabs in accordance to the guidance provided by the AGO (View OPOTA Online Course Catalog/Roll-Call Refreshers/NIBIN II).
- If there are bullet(s), cartridge case(s), or shotshell(s) from the crime scene that require the laboratory to perform comparisons to the recovered firearm(s), submit separately the firearm(s), the evidence to be compared for Firearms examination, and the test fires that were produced for NIBIN entry.

Firearms recovered from felony crimes against a person (felonious assault, homicide, etc.) may be submitted to the laboratory for DNA swabbing and NIBIN entry.

In order to consider a test fired cartridge case from a known firearm to be submitted for NIBIN entry:

- The cartridge case should have a known make, model, and serial number
- The cartridge case must have an occurrence date (i.e. the date when the firearm was recovered/date of offense)

Firearms or cartridge cases seized or recovered within 1 year prior to the present date, may be submitted to the Laboratory for NIBIN entry. If NIBIN entry is requested for gun crime evidence with offense dates older than 1 year, contact a BCI Firearms Laboratory Supervisor.

II. Database Entry Notification Practices

BCI laboratory informs law enforcement agencies when cartridge cases from crime scene evidence and/or test fired cartridge cases from a known firearm are entered and searched in NIBIN, via an automated e-mail notification, upon closure of the laboratory assignment.

BCI and the ATF NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC) perform correlations and BCI informs law enforcement agencies of all potential leads via BCI laboratory reports.

III. Database Search Scope

NIBIN searches are conducted based on a preliminary triage of evidence. The NIBIN software search compares new cartridge case images to those already stored in the database from agencies participating in NIBIN which may include a portion of the following neighboring states: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, as well as other states/regions upon request. For a full list of participating NIBIN agencies, contact the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).



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IV. Database Entry Retention and Frequency

Cartridge case entries from crime scenes and test fired cartridge cases are retained in the database indefinitely and are automatically searched against new entries in subsequent searches.