

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2013-04 GUNSHOT RESIDUE (GSR) EVIDENCE SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

New Gunshot Residue Collection Kits (GSR Kits)

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Division of Forensic Science (GBI-DOFS) has awarded a new contract to TRITECHFORENSICS (previously Tri-Tech Inc.) to produce an updated GSR collection kit approved for submission to the GBI Crime Laboratory. The new kits, **GSR-SEM(Q)GBI**, will replace the collection kits previously manufactured by Tri-Tech Inc. (**GSR-AA/SEM(Q)GBI**) as the approved kit of the GBI-DOFS. As of this date, agencies should no longer purchase the older Tri-Tech kit, or any other non-approved kits. **The current GBI approved kit should be purchased from TRITECHFORENSICS (1-800-438-7884 or www.tritechforensics.com) using the order number GSR-SEM(Q)GBI.**

The configuration of these new kits will allow for a decreased collection time, as the cotton tipped swabs have been eliminated and are no longer utilized. Changes have also been made to the enclosed information form to be completed by your agency.

We encourage you to begin using the new TRITECHFORENSICS kit immediately; however, any old Tri-Tech kits submitted will still be accepted. GBI-DOFS will not perform GSR analysis on any collection kit other than the approved Tri-Tech **GSR-AA/SEM(Q)GBI** (old kit) or TRITECHFORENSICS **GSR-SEM(Q)GBI** (new kit).

Gunshot Residue Analysis Operation Policy Review

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. The absence of GSR residue on a person's hands is not conclusive proof that the individual did not fire a weapon or was not in close proximity to a discharged firearm. GSR examinations cannot distinguish between discharging a firearm and being in close proximity to a weapon when it is discharged.

GSR analysis will not be routinely conducted on kits collected from gunshot victims, including cases of suspected suicide OR from kits collected from sources other than the hands of a suspected shooter (e.g. clothing). If you believe your case circumstances warrant analysis in either of these situations please contact the Trace Evidence Section Manager, Tammy Jergovich at 404-270-8266 or Assistant Manager, Michael McCarriagher at 404-270-8530 prior to submitting the evidence to the laboratory.

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.
GBI-DOFS Deputy Director