



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Vernon M. Keenan
Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2016-01 Firearms Service Update August 1, 2016

Effective October 1, 2016, the GBI Crime Laboratory is implementing the following operational changes to better focus available resources on analysis of firearms casework.

1. The GBI Crime Lab will not accept firearms for the purpose of destruction. **Gerdau Ameristeel** has agreed to destroy unloaded firearms delivered by law enforcement. Agencies wishing to destroy firearms at this facility should contact them directly using the information below to establish a date and time for delivery. The company will not accept loaded firearms, ammunition, drugs, or sealed containers for destruction.

Gerdau Ameristeel
384 Old Grassdale Rd NE
Cartersville, GA 30121

Contact: Chris Rooks
Phone: (770) 387-3347
chris.rooks@gerdau.com

2. The laboratory will limit use of the ATF NIBIN system to entry of cartridge cases fired from firearms submitted to the laboratory as evidence in a criminal investigation involving a known shooting incident. The laboratory will discontinue processing firearms or cartridge cases that are not associated with criminal investigations of shooting incidents for NIBIN entry. Very few NIBIN hits have been identified from firearms that are not associated with criminal investigations of shooting incidents.

These changes are necessary because the volume of requested forensic casework in the firearms area continues to far exceed the available analytical capacity of the laboratory. Destruction of firearms and processing of firearms which are submitted solely for the purpose of NIBIN entry requires extensive record keeping and time on the part of laboratory staff, diverting trained firearms examiners and technicians away from more critical duties associated with analysis of evidence items.

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 george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov or 404-270-8082.

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.
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GBI Division of Forensic Sciences