



**Crime Laboratory
SOP 83-2**

Number: 03-01-01
Subject: Syringe Testing
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November 1, 2008

I. Purpose

Syringes as evidence are a great health concern for laboratory personnel. Many times laboratory personnel have handled evidence with unknown exposed syringe needles. This policy is to be followed for submitting liquid found in syringes.

II. Background Information

The Crime Laboratory Division has implemented a Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan to minimize laboratory personnel's occupational exposure to blood-borne diseases and to comply with the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030. This standard greatly restricts any handling of contaminated syringes.

III. Policy

- A. There will be NO submission or testing of hypodermic syringes at the Crime Laboratory. The only exception to this policy is when the syringe is the screw off needle type and the needle has been entirely removed by unscrewing it from the syringe. Note: Cutting the needle from the syringe DOES NOT qualify for this exception). Confirmation of removal MUST be documented on the NSP 750 Submittal form.
- B. Cases submitted to the laboratory that contain hypodermic syringes will be returned to the submitting agency without testing. The case may only be resubmitted if the syringe is removed.
- C. Syringe rinses will only be tested under these following circumstances - do not submit if the syringe rinses do not meet these criteria.
 - 1. It is the only item in the case or the only item tied to a particular suspect.

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2. It was the ONLY probable cause for the search. MUST be clearly labeled as such.
 3. The prosecution can provide clear justification that the testing is vital to a case and this is approved prior to submission to the lab.
 4. Multiple rinses for one suspect will NOT be tested.
- D. If a hypodermic syringe meets the previously listed criteria, the liquid in the syringe may be submitted. Place the liquid in a clean vial. Seal the vial and label it as a BIOHAZARD. Submit the vial as evidence. DO NOT submit the syringe.

If the hypodermic syringe contains no liquid it is acceptable to rinse it with either water or alcohol. It is EXTREMELY important to indicate on the submittal which was used. Again, seal the vial containing the rinse and label and submit it as described above.