

# North Carolina State Crime Laboratory Forensic Update



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Dear Criminal Justice Stakeholders,

This edition of the **NC State Crime Laboratory Forensic Update** takes a look at the **Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS)**.

“Truth through science so justice is served.”

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## **What is IBIS/NIBIN?**

The Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) is a computerized system that acquires digital images of fired cartridge cases collected from crime scenes and test-fired cartridge cases from firearms seized during criminal investigations. The acquired images are entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database.

Using IBIS/NIBIN to solve crimes:

NIBIN compares the newly acquired images with existing database images for the purpose of discovering possible associations between crimes. This powerful, investigative tool can provide law enforcement with potential leads which may not otherwise have been available.

Items entered into IBIS/NIBIN by the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory (NCSCCL) are automatically searched against other entries made in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Other U.S. locations can be manually searched upon request.

# North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

## FORENSIC UPDATE

### What does NCSCL enter into IBIS/NIBIN?

Fired cartridge cases of the following calibers are currently accepted by NCSCL for entry into IBIS/NIBIN:

- 25 Auto
- 223 Rem/5.56 NATO
- 300 Blackout
- 32 Pistol
- 357 SIG
- 380 Auto
- 40 S&W
- 44 Pistol
- 45 Auto
- 7.62 x 39mm
- 9mm Luger
- 10mm

Fired cartridge cases not acceptable for entry include those from events which:

- Are not official criminal investigations (e.g., found property, suicide and murder/suicide);
- Have a date of offense older than one (1) year; and/or
- The recovery/seizure of the firearm is older than one (1) year.

### What should you expect when a possible association (NIBIN Lead) is discovered?

Should a NIBIN Lead be developed, the affected agencies are notified via email by the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC).

NIBIN Leads have not been confirmed by microscopic comparison and are, therefore, not conclusive. Agencies may resubmit the evidence to the NCSCL for microscopic comparison and confirmation.

