

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 1 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

## 11.0 Reporting of Results

### 11.1 Introduction

To ensure consistency in reporting of results to customer agencies, this policy establishes the templates for reporting of commonly used examination results. For large and/or complex cases, statements may be adjusted to add information that further details or clarifies results.

Photographs, diagrams, drawings, sketches, or any other external documents shall not be included in the report as those items are stored in the Case Record Object Repository of Forensic Advantage and are available upon request.

### 11.2 Report Statements

The results should be organized in such a way that they provide a clear, concise, unambiguous report.

Examiners and Technicians authoring reports will, at their own discretion, have the option of beginning result statements using the following formats:

- "The fired cartridge case(s) or fired bullet(s) (list items) ..." or
- "Item(s) XXXX (fired cartridge case(s) or fired bullet(s)...)"
- The caliber and number of fired cartridge cases may be added to the statements. Example: The ten 9mm Luger caliber fired cartridge cases...

Consistency should be maintained throughout the report in whichever format is utilized. The statements below are standard statements and shall be used when applicable. It is understood that there will be instances where a result statement may need to be modified to meet the specific result(s) of an examination or situation. However, the addition or modification of statements for personal preference is not permitted. Auto-generated statements in Forensic Advantage shall not be used.

If it becomes necessary to use terminology that may not be commonly used in a report, and that is found in the AFTE Glossary, the definition of that terminology shall be included in the report.

If the Biology/DNA preceding lab number is omitted from items in the report the examiner or technician should add a statement that clarifies what was omitted.

Example: For reporting purposes "LS12-1234" was omitted from items processed by the MSP Biology Unit.

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	Document #: 1492	Page 2 of 9
	Revision #: 12	Issued Date: 09/17/2020
	Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau	Approved By: Ryan Larrison

## 11.2.1 Identifications

For all identifications (associations) of firearm and tool mark evidence, the following statement must be included in the report:

- Identifications are made only to a degree of practical certainty and are based on sufficient agreement of the individual characteristics of tool marks. When sufficient agreement exists, in part, this means that the likelihood of another tool producing the same marks is so remote that it is considered a practical impossibility.

Standard report statements, for Firearms identifications:

- The fired cartridge case(s) (list items) is/are identified as having been fired in the same firearm.
- The fired bullet(s) (list items) is/are identified as having been fired from the same firearm.
- The caliber and number of fired cartridge cases may be added to the statements. Example: The ten 9mm Luger caliber fired cartridge cases...

Examiners should substitute *“the submitted firearm (Item XX)”* instead of *“same firearm”* when applicable.

For instances where there are bullets from more than one case (multiple scenes) that are all identified to each other, the examiner may choose to state that the fired bullets are identified as having been fired from the *“...same firearm barrel”* instead of *“...the same firearm.”* This should apply to the same situation for an elimination or inconclusive result.

Standard report statements, for Tool marks identifications:

- Tool marks observed on the submitted {padlock/door hinge/shackle-whatever was examined} (Item XX) are identified as having been produced by the submitted crowbar/screwdriver/pliers-whatever the tool is (Item XX).

## 11.2.2 Eliminations/Exclusions

Standard report statements, for firearms eliminations:

- The submitted fired cartridge case(s) or bullet(s) (list items) is/are eliminated as having been fired in/from the same firearm. There are differences in class characteristics.

Examiners may substitute *“the submitted firearm (Item XX)”* instead of *“same firearm”*.

Standard report statements, for tool marks eliminations:

- The tool marks observed on the submitted {padlock/door hinge/shackle-whatever was examined} (Item XX) are eliminated as having been produced by the submitted crowbar/screwdriver/pliers- whatever the tool is (Item XX). There are differences in class characteristics.

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 3 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

When eliminating items list the class characteristic differences that were used to reach this conclusion. This will satisfy the requirement listed in [LOM 3.3.4.5](#) which states:

- When comparative examinations result in the elimination of an individual or object, the laboratory report shall clearly communicate the elimination.

### 11.2.3 Inconclusive Results

Standard report statements, for firearms examinations:

- The submitted fired cartridge case(s) or bullet(s) are not identified or eliminated (Inconclusive) as having been fired in/from the same firearm (or the submitted firearm).
  - There are not sufficient individual characteristics present for comparison purposes
  - The individual characteristics present do not display sufficient agreement
  - The individual characteristics present do not display agreement
  - The individual characteristics present are not sufficient for identification purposes.

Standard report statements, for tool marks examinations:

- Tool marks observed on padlock/door hinge/shackle-whatever it was you examined (Item XX) are not identified or eliminated (Inconclusive) as having been produced by the submitted crowbar/screwdriver/pliers- whatever the tool is (Item XX).
  - There are not sufficient individual characteristics present for comparison purposes
  - The individual characteristics present do not display sufficient agreement
  - The individual characteristics present do not display agreement
  - The individual characteristics present are not sufficient for identification purposes.

When an examination result is found to be inconclusive the reason must be clearly communicated as required by AR 3125 ISO IEC 17025:2017 Forensic Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Requirements 7.8.1.2.2. The bullet points listed below the inconclusive statements should be used when applicable.

#### 11.2.3.1 When examination suggests different firearm/tool

Standard report statement:

- The submitted fired cartridge cases or bullets are not identified or eliminated as having been fired in/from the same firearm (or submitted firearm). The individual characteristics present do not display agreement (Inconclusive). However, the characteristics present suggest that they were fired in/from different firearms. Submission of those firearms is necessary for further examination.

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 4 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

### 11.2.3.2 When examination suggests a common source/tool

Standard report statements:

- Tool marks on (list items) are identified as having been produced by a common source (list possible source). Submission of a firearm is necessary for further examination.
- Tool marks observed on (list items) are identified as having been produced by the same tool.

### 11.2.4 Open Shoot/NIBIN entry and IBIS Only Exam

Standard report statements:

- The submitted firearm (Item XX) functioned in the condition received.
- The submitted firearm (Item XX) did not function in the condition received due to (list reason if known). However, after (list action performed) the firearm functioned, and test shots were obtained.
  - routine maintenance
  - utilizing a reference gun collection part (list part)

If there was other maintenance or action that was done to repair the firearm, state what was done.
- The submitted firearm (Item XX) did not function in the condition received. Attempts to repair the firearm were unsuccessful. No test shots were obtained.
- Test shots from the submitted firearm (Item XX) are not suitable for entry into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database and will be returned to the submitting agency.
- A representative test shot from Item(s) XX was entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database. An investigative lead will be sent for all possible associations. Items entered in the database are searched in Michigan only unless requested otherwise and will remain in the database unless a request to remove the entry is received.
- Item(s) XX was (or were) entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database. An investigative lead will be sent for all possible associations. Items entered in the database are searched in Michigan only unless requested otherwise and will remain in the database unless a request to remove the entry is received.
  - If an item is removed or replaced the above statement should be modified to reflect the change and added to the subsequent report.
  - If the NIBIN database search includes areas other than Michigan, modify the above statements to reflect the entry search areas.
  - If there are test shots and evidence items entered in the same case, one statement describing the database entry should be used.
- Test shots from the submitted firearm (Item XX) do not meet the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division protocol for entry into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database and will be returned to the submitting agency.
- An IBIS Entry Only evaluation was completed on the submitted fired cartridge cases. No definitive conclusions were reached. If a complete examination is necessary for court purposes, please contact this Firearms Unit. If the evidence was returned, please resubmit all evidence associated with this case and a new Request for Laboratory Examination.
- When an examiner performs an IBIS only exam and it is determined, based on class characteristic differences, that there are 2 or more groups or 2 or more guns the following statement may be used:

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 5 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

- Differences in class characteristics (or machining marks) suggest at least # different firearms may have been used. A representative sample from each suspect firearm was selected for NIBIN entry.
- Class characteristic and/or machining mark differences should be clearly described in the worksheet.
- When there are fired bullets submitted with cases that are processed for IBIS entry only, an examiner may add the following statement:
  - The fired bullet(s) submitted in this case were classified to the extent possible. No comparison was performed.

### 11.2.5 Unfinished firearm

When the item submitted is suspected to be an unfinished frame or receiver, commonly referred to as an 80%, and there is no commercial information available to confirm it as such, the standard statement is:

- Item XX is consistent with being an unfinished firearm frame or receiver (whichever it is). There is no commercial information available. Contact the ATF's Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division for guidance.

When the item submitted has commercial information available that indicates it was manufactured as an unfinished frame or receiver, that information may be added to the report. However, it must also be added to the Object Repository as an external document.

When the item submitted functions as a firearm, regardless of its original state at the time of sale, it should be reported in a standard format of make, model, caliber, and serial number. There should be no inference that the item was originally an unfinished item.

In any instance where there is no serial number or area of obliteration, the standard statement is:

- No serial number or area of obliteration was located on Item XX.

### 11.2.6 Submission policy/No examination

Standard report statements:

- The submitted firearm (Item XX) does not meet the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division submission policy. Therefore, no examination was conducted.
- Item XX is not a firearm. It is classified as a BB gun/Air Soft gun/starter pistol (modify as appropriate)
- As requested by the submitting agency, the examinations were terminated. The above listed containers were returned without examination.
- The above listed containers were returned to the agency for court purposes. If analysis is needed after the court proceedings, please resubmit the items with a new request for examination.
- Court records indicate that there were no criminal charges filed in this incident. The above listed containers were returned without examination.

For items submitted that the firearms examiner or technician does not examine or analyze a notation in the

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 6 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

evidence breakdown/description or statement in the report must be made. Only one notation that informs the customer of items not analyzed is necessary.

- Container(s) XX were not opened or analyzed. Or Item(s) XX were not analyzed.
  - If the items or containers are reported to be fired bullets, the following statement may be added:
  - Fired bullets or portions thereof are no longer accepted for classifications on an IBIS entry only submission. These items can be resubmitted at a later date should further examination be necessary.
- “Not Analyzed” may also be added to the evidence item descriptions

## 11.2.7 IBIS Hit

### Information:

A National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) correlation and comparison of digital images established similarities between the below listed cases:

- Lab Number, Item #XX/Agency Name/Agency Incident Number
- Lab Number, Item #XX/Agency Name/Agency Incident Number

Add cases as necessary

### Results of Physical/Microscopic Examination:

The below listed XX caliber fired cartridge cases are identified as having been fired in the same firearm (if FCC's only) or the submitted firearm (FCC's and gun):

- Item #XX, Lab number
- Item #XX, Lab number

or

- Item #XX (List the complete firearm description). Lab number

If there are additional items and/or previously associated cases use the "Additional Information" section to list the laboratory report numbers and case records. It is not necessary to list the individual items previously associated.

### Additional Information:

The below listed case(s) have additional evidence that was previously associated. Please see the corresponding case record(s) listed for all evidence associations.

- Laboratory Number, Record Number/Agency Name, and Incident Number

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 7 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

(Add cases as necessary.)

**Or:**

There may be additional evidence associated with this case. Please refer to any previously completed case records for the lab numbers listed above.

For an IBIS association where an IBIS Only Exam was completed on the evidence include the following statements:

- An IBIS Only evaluation was completed on the evidence that was previously submitted in this case. No definitive conclusions were reached.
- If a suspect is developed and a complete examination is necessary for court or investigative purposes, please contact this Firearms Unit. If the evidence was returned, please resubmit all evidence associated with this case with a new Request for Laboratory Examination (FSD-007).

## 11.2.8 Classifications

Standard report statements:

- Item XX is consistent with being a XX caliber class fired metal jacketed bullet displaying (list type of rifling if known) rifling specifications of XX lands and grooves with a right/left twist.
  - If it was a partial bullet, add “a portion of a” before fired metal jacketed bullet.
  - If it was a lead bullet, replace metal jacketed bullet.
  - If you ran a GRC, add: “These specifications are characteristic of several firearm manufacturers. No suspected firearm should be overlooked”. If you list a specific manufacturer, replace “...several firearm manufacturers.” with your candidate(s) and add “However, no suspected firearm should be overlooked.”
  - Physical characteristics of Item XX are consistent with bullets fired from XX caliber firearms.

If the classification cannot be completed due to damage/mutilation, report what is known of the item and state why it could not be completed. Example: *Damage/mutilation prevented a more definitive classification.* There may be other reasons that a classification could not be completed.

- Item XX is consistent with being a lead core (or portion of if it is not complete) from a fired metal jacketed bullet.
- Item XX is consistent with being a piece of lead. (Or lead fragment).
- Item XX is consistent with being a portion of a metal jacket from a fired bullet. No further classification could be completed due to small size.
- Item XX is consistent with being a copper/brass colored metal fragment. No further classification could be completed due to small size.
  - This statement is not restricted to copper or brass only. It can be used for various types of metal fragments.

It is impractical to list statements for all possible components of fired evidence that a lab may receive. If there are items analyzed that are found to be unique to a manufacturer or style, type, or design of

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 8 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

bullet, this may be included, but must be have objective supporting documentation in the case record.

### 11.2.9 Serial Number Restoration, attempt and re-stamp

Standard report statements:

- Serial number restoration techniques were applied to the submitted firearm (Item XX). The serial number was determined to be XXXXXXXX. Or: The partially restored serial number was determined to be XXX\*\*XX. The asterisks represent unrestored characters.
- Serial number restoration techniques were applied to the submitted firearm (Item XX) without success. The method of obliteration was too severe.
- Serial number restoration techniques were applied to the submitted firearm (Item XX) without success. However, examination of other markings on the firearm revealed the serial number to be XXXXXXXX.
  - This statement is used if you locate a secondary/hidden serial number and try to restore the primary number.
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives authorized a serial number re-stamp on the submitted firearm (Item XX). The re-issued serial number is: XXXXXXXXXXXX.
- No serial number restoration techniques were applied to the submitted firearm (Item XX). The serial number was determined to be: XXXXXXXX
  - This statement is used when results are obtained by removal of tape, the grips or something that covered the serial number that was not obliterated. It is acceptable to list what was removed that revealed the original serial number.
- No serial number was located on the submitted firearm. The firearm may have been produced without one, or prior to the Gun Control Act of 1968.
- No serial number was located on the submitted firearm due to severe rust/corrosion.

There are additional statements utilized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that can be found on the Firearms Discipline Page. These statements may be used, as necessary.

### 11.2.10 GSR and Distance Determination

Standard report statements:

- The area around Hole X in the upper left chest area of the shirt/jacket (Item X) was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues. No pattern could be determined.
- A specific muzzle-to-garment distance could not be determined due to a lack of gunshot residue patterns.
- The lack of a residue pattern may indicate the shot was discharged from a distance beyond the maximum distance for the deposition of the patterns of residue. Or an intervening object was present at the time of the discharge of the firearm, or that the residues were lost during handling of the item prior to examination.
- The area around the hole in the upper left chest of the shirt/jacket (Item X) was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues. Residues and

	<b>FA-PM 11.0 Reporting Results</b>	
	<i>Document #: 1492</i>	<i>Page 9 of 9</i>
	<i>Revision #: 12</i>	<i>Issued Date: 09/17/2020</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Andrew Carriveau</i>	<i>Approved By: Ryan Larrison</i>

physical effects consistent with a contact shot were found.

- The area around the hole in the upper left chest area of the shirt/jacket (Item X) was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues and a pattern of residues was found. Using (firearm description here) (Item X) with ammunition like that represented by the evidence from the scene or in the submitted firearm (whichever it is) this pattern of residues was reproduced at a distance of between "XX inches/feet" and "XX inches/feet."
- The area around the hole in the upper left chest area of the shirt/jacket (Item X) was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues and residue deposits were found. Using (firearm description here) (Item X) with the ammunition like that represented by the evidence from the scene or in the submitted firearm (whichever it is) this pattern of residues was detected to a maximum distance of between "XX inches/feet" and "XX inches/feet."
- The area around the hole in the upper left chest area of the shirt/jacket (Item X) was microscopically examined and chemically processed for the presence of gunshot residues. Residue consistent with the passage of a bullet.
- The shirt/jacket (Item X) was examined and a shot pattern was found. Using the (firearm description here) and ammunition like that represented by the evidence from the scene, a similar pattern was produced at between XX inches/feet and XX inches/feet.

If requested by the agency the uncertainty values must be reported. If no request was made the examiner is not required to report the uncertainty. The reporting examiner must refer to the measurement uncertainty worksheet for the specific value at the reported distances. An example of the report statement below:

- The calculated measurement uncertainty at 6 inches is +/- .01 inches. The calculated measurement uncertainty at 18 inches is +/- .002 inches. Measurement uncertainty of distances is reported at a level of confidence of approximately 99.7%.