



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

DIVISION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
CENTRAL LABORATORY
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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January 11, 2005

TO: All Forensic Biology Staff

FROM: Jeffrey D. Ban, Forensic Biology Section Chief *JDB*

SUBJECT: Discontinuing the Use of Random Samples during the Analysis of Evidentiary (Casework) Samples

In order to improve the turnaround time for the analysis of casework, the Forensic Biology Section will discontinue analyzing random samples in conjunction with evidence samples. Currently the procedure for using random samples is addressed in the Forensic Biology Section Procedure Manual, Section III - Fluorescent Detection PCR-Based STR DNA Protocol: PowerPlex® 1.1, 2.1 and 16 BIO Systems and in Section VI - Quality Assurance Program DNA Typing Of Biological Materials. Section VI of the procedure manual issued on January 11, 2005 no longer requires a random sample to be analyzed in conjunction with evidentiary samples. However, the current Section III of the procedure manual still addresses the use of random samples during the analysis of evidentiary samples. Because the procedure for using a random sample in conjunction with evidence samples is addressed throughout Section III of the current procedure manual, in accordance with Section 4.5.4 of the Division's Quality Manual addressing the process for modifying technical manuals, it is not possible to immediately discontinue the use of random samples during the analysis of evidentiary samples without amending several chapters in Section III of the procedure manual through the formal revision process. Therefore, an exception was requested to Section 4.5.4 of the Quality Manual to enable the Forensic Biology Section to discontinue the use of random samples in conjunction with the analysis of evidence samples to improve efficiency prior to the re-issuance of Section III, as well as to ensure that there are no conflicts between the current Section III and the January 11, 2005 version of Section VI of the Forensic Biology Section Procedure Manual. Therefore, effective upon the approval and signature of the Division Director and Central Laboratory Director this memorandum will serve as the directive to discontinue the use of random samples in conjunction with evidentiary samples until the entire Section III of the Forensic Biology Section Procedure Manual can be re-issued and posted on the Division's intranet.

In accordance with the January 11, 2005 version of Section VI of the Forensic Biology Section Procedure Manual, a random sample will continue to be analyzed with each set of convicted offender and arrestee sample extractions to serve as a verification that the samples are successfully being entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the search algorithm is working properly.

Paul B. Ferrara 1/11/05
Paul B. Ferrara, Ph.D. Date
Division Director

Pete Marone 1/11/05
Pete Marone Date
Central Laboratory Director

cc: Steve Sigel Amy Wong

Kevin Patrick