

**ER SOP-01 General Considerations for Accepting
Evidence Submissions**

Document ID: 987
Revision: 1
Effective Date: 8/15/2014
Status: Published
Page 1 of 3

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

A. Purpose: A listing of general considerations when accepting physical evidence submissions at the Division of Scientific Services.

B. Responsibility: Evidence Control Officers or designees.

C. Procedure:

1. Physical Evidence submitted to the Division of Scientific Services may be accepted from any of the following sources: CT State Police, local law enforcement agencies, Federal agencies, State's Attorney's Offices, Public Defender's Offices, other authorized State agencies (Refer to General Statute 29-7b), or out-of-state agencies with *prior* authorization by the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and/or the Director of the Division of Scientific Services. No evidence will be accepted from private citizens or private attorneys.
 - a. If for any reason (such as a court order) evidence is to be accepted from a private attorney the Director must give written approval to do so.
2. All representatives from an agency submitting or picking up physical evidence will sign in to the Evidence Receiving Log Book.
3. The Division of Scientific Services will not examine evidence previously examined by other agencies or experts, except in instances as approved by the appropriate Deputy Director or the Director of the Division of Scientific Services. If an ECO finds that a case has been previously analyzed by a laboratory outside of the Division they must contact the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director is responsible for obtaining permission from the Director to accept such a case.
4. All physical evidence submitted to the Division of Scientific Services must be accompanied by a completed "Request for Analysis" form SOP-ER-02:1. ~~DPS 997-C (Rev. 06/10)~~. All DUI kits should be accompanied by a completed "Request for Examination of Specimens for Alcohol/Drugs". This form is DESPP 9-C (Rev. 1/2013).

Note: If the submitting agency representative has used a previous version of the above listed forms, the ECO may accept this or ask them to transfer the information onto the current version.

**ER SOP-01 General Considerations for Accepting
Evidence Submissions**

Document ID: 987
Revision: 1
Effective Date: 8/15/2014
Status: Published
Page 2 of 3

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

5. If priority handling or special examinations are required for a case, the submitting agency should make such requests through the appropriate Deputy Director or the Director of the Division of Scientific Services.
6. In general, physical evidence submitted to the Connecticut Division of Scientific Services must be properly packaged and sealed with evidence tape, labels, or by some other tamper-evident method. The seal must be initialed. Evidence not properly packaged or sealed may be returned to the submitting agency for appropriate packaging prior to being accepted at the Division of Scientific Services.
7. All evidence will be handled in a manner that ensures the integrity of the evidence and guards against loss, deterioration or degradation. A refrigerator is provided for urines, sexual assault kits, bloods and other physical evidence that may need to be kept at a constant temperature until such time as these materials can be transferred to the appropriate section.
8. All evidence must be submitted through the Evidence Receiving Unit (ERU).
9. When agencies submit electronic evidence to the ERU, a checklist must be provided along with any other required paperwork. This checklist is provided by the Computer Crime and Electronic Evidence Section and filled out by the submitting agency. This paperwork is date stamped by the ECO.
10. When firearms are being submitted to the Division of Scientific Services and are to be examined by other sections first (Fingerprints, Forensic Biology, and Trace for example); these firearms are checked for safety. Personnel from the Firearms section are called by the ERU to verify that these weapons are considered safe. They will be permitted into the Evidence Receiving Unit and will verify the firearm is unloaded. They will then apply a "safety check" red stamp (located in ERU) on the outside of the package containing the firearm.
11. Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Biological Materials/"Suspicious Unknown Materials: If it is communicated or stated that the submitted material may be a chemical weapon, or may represent a biological threat, the Director or designee must be consulted. The Director or designee should instruct the submitting agency to submit the items to the CT Department of Health, Biological Sciences Laboratory. Upon completion of their analysis, the evidence may be

**ER SOP-01 General Considerations for Accepting
Evidence Submissions**

Document ID: 987
Revision: 1
Effective Date: 8/15/2014
Status: Published
Page 3 of 3

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

submitted to the Division of Scientific Services for further examination. Further instruct the agent that a Department of Public Health report stating that the evidence is **not** a biological threat must be submitted along with the appropriate paperwork for submission to the Division of Scientific Services.

D. References:

1. CT General Statute 29-7b
2. CT Department of Public Safety A & O Manual, 18.2.5

ARCHIVED