

**Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory
NIBIN Information**

What is happening?

Beginning in February 2024, the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory will begin to routinely perform NIBIN acquisitions for all eligible items submitted by law enforcement.

What is NIBIN?

NIBIN stands for the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). It is a tool that has the capability to provide investigative leads linking crime scene to crime scene or known firearm to crime scene(s) using fired cartridge casings. The Anchorage Police Department has been successfully utilizing NIBIN for a few years and now the SCDL is opening this program up to all other law enforcement agencies in the state.

What items are suitable for NIBIN?

Firearm types and calibers that should be test-fired and submitted for NIBIN entry include:

- Shotguns: 12 gauge (semiautomatic and pump-action only)
- Semiautomatic pistols and semiautomatic rifles in the following calibers:

22 Long Rifle	9mm Luger	45 GAP
22 Magnum	9mm Makarov	5.7x28mm
25 Auto	40 S&W	223 Remington
32 Auto	357 SIG	5.56x45mm
380 Auto	10mm	7.62x39mm
38 Super Auto	45 Auto	300 AAC Blackout

All fired cartridge casings recovered from crime scenes, regardless of caliber, are suitable for NIBIN entry.

What items are typically not suitable for NIBIN?

Evidence that is typically not suitable for NIBIN include firearms that are revolvers, single shot or bolt action rifles, and shotguns chambered for other gauges. Special request from a submitting agency is required for evidence that is not typically suitable.

Firearm types that are typically not test fired include:

Revolvers	Single shot rifles	Single shot shotguns
Derringers	Bolt-action rifles	Double-barrel shotguns
Single shot pistols	Lever-action rifles	Bolt-action shotguns
Bolt-action pistols	Pump-action rifles	Lever-action shotguns

The determination as to whether a firearm should be test-fired is based primarily on whether the firearm action type normally leaves fired cartridge cases at a shooting scene after discharge, the tendency for the firearm type to be utilized in serial-type gun crimes, and whether there is a pool of candidates to search against in the NIBIN database.

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What is the preferred method of submission for NIBIN only items (test fires)?

Firearms that do not require other forensic testing should be test fired by your agency and only the spent cartridge casings should be submitted to the laboratory for NIBIN acquisition. This method minimizes the need to ship firearms back and forth through the mail.

Two spent cartridge casings should be sent to the lab in a sealed envelope following normal evidence submission protocols. The accompanying Request for Laboratory Services form needs to have the NIBIN Only checkbox checked. The RLS description for the evidence should include “Test fire from” Make/Model of firearm and serial number if casings are from test fires.

When should the firearm be submitted?

If a firearm requires other forensic testing (e.g., general firearms analysis, fingerprinting, DNA), it should be submitted to the laboratory without any test fires being performed by your agency. The item needs to be submitted in a gun box and follow normal laboratory submitting procedures. NIBIN entry will occur at the laboratory by a member of the firearms section, when suitable, after other testing is complete.

What types of ammunition should be used for test fires?

The below list represents the core calibers that are most often associated with criminal activity. As a result, these are the main calibers currently being entered into NIBIN. For firearms bearing calibers other than those listed, contact the laboratory for further instructions.

.22 caliber	Remington .22 standard velocity lead round nose, Remington .22 Mohawk, high velocity, CCI .22 Mini Mag_copper coated round nose
.25 auto	Remington, PMC, UMC 50 grain metal case, FMJ
.32 auto	Remington, UMC, or PMC , full metal jacket (FMJ)
.380 auto	Remington or PMC 95 GrainFMJ UMC 95 grain metal case
9mm Luger	Remington or PMC 115 grain FMJ, UMC 115 grain metal case
9mm Makarov	CCI 95 grain, Federal 90grain JHP
.38 Special	Remington or UMC 158 grain lead round nose CCI 38 special +P jacketed hollow point, Hornady 38 Spl 158 grain JHPXTP
.357 Magnum	same as .38 Special
.357 Sig	Remington 125 grain JHP

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	UMC 125 grain metal case Federal 180 grain FMJ
.40S&W	Remington 180 grain JHP Federal 180 grain JHP UMC 180 grain metal case
10mm	Remington 180 grain JHP UMC 180 grain metal case Remington 200 grain metal case PMC 200 grain metal case
.45 auto	Remington or PMC 230 grain metal case UMC 230 grain metal case
7.62X39mm	UMC 123Gr. Metal Case, Winchester - 123Gr., FMJ
12 Gauge	Remington Lite target various loads, PMC Field & Target various loads
.223 Remington	Remington 55 Gr. Metal Case, PMC 55 Gr. FMJ-BT, Winchester 55 Gr. FMJ

CCI = Cascade Cartridge Industries; FMJ = Full Metal Jacket (Copper); R-P = Remington Peters;
PMC = Eldorado Cartridge Corporation - a subsidiary of Pan Metal Corporation
UMC= Union Metallic Corporation (Remington)

What is the preferred method of submission for NIBIN only items (recovered evidence cartridge cases)?

Recovered evidence cartridge cases should be packaged and submitted following normal evidence submission protocols. For submissions containing multiple cartridge cases, the cartridge cases should be grouped by class. The accompanying Request for Laboratory Services form needs to have each package listed and the NIBIN Only checkbox checked for each.

If there is more than one cartridge case suitable for entry into NIBIN, the examiner will select the one bearing the most pronounced or the clearest individual characteristics for entry. More than one may be selected for entry if different characteristics are found to be more pronounced on different items.

What happens after an item is submitted to the lab for NIBIN acquisition?

An automated email will be sent to the requesting agency after the NIBIN acquisition request is completed. NIBIN correlation results (lead and no-lead reports) are currently generated by the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC) and are generally returned 48-72 hours after submission/entry. Any reports generated related to the requested acquisition will also be sent to the requesting agency.