



Solano County District Attorney

Bureau of Forensic Services

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BULLETIN

UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR WITHDRAWAL, HANDLING, AND PRESERVATION
OF BLOOD SAMPLES FOR FORENSIC ALCOHOL ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Vehicle Code Section 23158, the California Department of Highway Patrol, in cooperation with the Department of Health and the Department of Justice, has adopted uniform standards for withdrawal, handling and preservation of blood samples prior to analysis. The standards are outlined below:

SAMPLING, COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND MARKING

Blood samples obtained from persons involved in traffic accidents or traffic violations shall be collected, handled and preserved as required by Section 1219 and 1219.1 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

Blood samples are collected by venipuncture from living individuals as soon as feasible after the alleged offense and only by persons authorized by Section 23158 of the California Vehicle Code (licensed physician and surgeon, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, duly licensed clinical laboratory technologist or clinical laboratory bioanalyst, unlicensed laboratory personnel regulated pursuant to Sections 1242, 1242.5, and 1246 of the Business and Professions Code, or certified paramedic acting at the request of a peace officer). Alcohol or other volatile organic disinfectants are **NOT USED** to clean the skin where a specimen is to be collected. Only aqueous benzalkonium chloride ("Zephiran") or povidone-iodine ("Betadine") disinfectants are used to disinfect the skin before venipuncture.

Sterile dry hypodermic needles and syringes or clean dry vacuum-type containers with sterile needles are used. No reusable equipment is used. The blood sample drawn is deposited into a clean, dry container (commercially prepared blood collection tube) which is closed with an inert stopper. Sample containers are not reused. Tubes for collecting blood contain an anticoagulant (such as potassium oxalate or EDTA) and a preservative (such as sodium fluoride).

The MINIMUM quantity of blood required to perform duplicate determinations by the laboratory and still provide sufficient quantity for referee analysis by the defendant is 3 ml (approximately one teaspoon). The blood sample container on which the laboratory performed quality assurance and non-interference testing is:

VACUTAINER® Grey Stopper 10mL - Contains potassium oxalate, 20 mg; sodium fluoride, 100 mg.

Laboratory personnel can provide corroborative testimony as to the contents and non-interference of the listed container. Samples received in other containers will be analyzed but may be subject to a legal challenge.

PACKAGING

Maintenance of identity and integrity of the sample, required by Section 1219 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, shall include the following procedures:

1. The label for the blood vial or tube shall contain at least the following information:

- a. Full name of subject.
- b. Date blood drawn.
- c. Initials of person drawing blood.
- d. Initials of witnessing officer.

SUBJECT'S NAME _____
INITIALS OF PERSON _____ DRAWING OF BLOOD/OR WITNESS TO URINE
DATE _____ TIME _____
WITNESSING OFFICER _____

2. The blood sample tube or vial shall be sealed in a blood alcohol envelope.
 - a. The blood sample envelope label shall include at least the following information:
 - (1) Full name of subject.
 - (2) Submitting agency.
 - (3) Geographical location where blood sample was drawn; i.e., name and/or address of hospital, jail or other facility.
 - (4) Name of person drawing blood sample.
 - (5) Date blood sample drawn.
 - (6) Time blood sample drawn.
 - (7) Signature of witnessing officer.
 - (8) A form for establishing the chain of possession for all persons handling the evidence.
 - b. Other information such as agency or laboratory number, driver's license, offense charged, anatomical location from which blood sample was drawn, or any special instructions may be added.

Blood alcohol kits including vials, envelopes and labels are available on request.

 Solano County Office of the District Attorney Bureau of Forensics		Laboratory Barcode Only
BLOOD SAMPLE FOR ALCOHOL/DRUG ANALYSIS		
Analyze for: <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (Amphetamines, Opiates, Cocaine, Benzodiazepines) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please list): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Test for drugs if BAC ≤ 0.08%		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if this is a referee sample for the subject's breath results: _____ / _____		
Agency: _____ Agency Case No.: _____ Offense(s): _____ Offense Date: _____		Arrest Location <input type="checkbox"/> City Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated Area Name of City: _____
Subject's Name (Last, First, M)		Driver's License
Date of Birth		
Person Drawing Blood	Location of Withdrawal	Date and Time Blood Drawn
Investigating Officer (Print)		Badge No.
Witnessing Officer Signature		
CHAIN OF POSSESSION:		
Received From	Received By:	Date
FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY: <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed <input type="checkbox"/> Other #/vial: _____		

Envelope Front

PLACE EVIDENCE SEAL HERE

Arresting Officer should seal with tape provided in kit and initial/date across the seal

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PHYSICIAN, NURSE TECHNOLOGIST, BIOANALYST, PHLEBOTOMIST, OR PARAMEDIC DRAWING BLOOD FOR ALCOHOL DETERMINATION:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain the permission of the subject to draw blood by venipuncture. 2. Cleanse the area to be punctured with a nonvolatile, non-alcoholic disinfectant (Benzalkonium chloride or Povidone-Iodine, etc.) 3. Label the vials of blood (not the plastic safety container) with the labels provided giving: Full name of subject, Date, Time and name of individual drawing the blood.
INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE OFFICERS ON COLLECTING BLOOD SAMPLES FOR ALCOHOL ANALYSIS:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submitting officer must witness consent of the subject and the collection of the blood sample. 2. Initial the vial label. 3. The information required on the outside of this envelope is to be completed in full by the officer. 4. The blood samples are to be placed in this envelope and sealed with the enclosed seal. 5. Transport or arrange to transport the envelope to the laboratory (Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.). If mailing, place envelope in provided box and seal with second enclosed seal.
NOTE: This kit is not to be used for collecting blood samples for determining blood type or HIV status. The enclosed blood samples are for alcohol and drug analysis only.

Envelope Back

Security Seal

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BLOOD SAMPLES

1. The requesting officer should witness the withdrawal of the sample. When the officer witnesses the actual withdrawal of the blood, it may preclude the person drawing the blood from appearing as a witness at the time of the trial.
2. The person drawing the blood (e.g., nurse, doctor, paramedic) shall fill out and initial the label and affix it firmly to the tube or vial. The sample shall then be given to the officer who, in turn, shall initial the label and place the sample in the prescribed envelope. The officer shall immediately complete the required information on the envelope label and seal securely.
3. Appropriate steps to ensure integrity of sample shall be taken:
 - a. Once the envelope or other container is sealed, it must not be opened except for analysis in the laboratory.
 - b. Each person having possession of the sealed samples shall sign his name in the space provided for recording the "chain of possession".

POST MORTEM SAMPLES

The laboratory does not analyze post mortem samples.

RE-EXAMINATION

The laboratory does not routinely examine materials that have been previously examined by another laboratory. Re-examination requests must be made in writing by the submitting agency with an endorsement by the prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction in the case.

EVIDENCE DISPOSITION

Blood samples submitted for analysis will be retained by the laboratory for one year at which time it will be returned to the submitting agency. Post-Mortem samples will be retained 90 days and returned to the submitting agency.

Evidence from outside agencies will be retained for one year and returned to the submitting agency. The laboratory will not be responsible for destruction of evidence.

For further information on collection of blood for forensic alcohol analysis contact the laboratory directly.

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