

ASCLD/LAB-*International*

Final Assessment Report

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory
Triad Regional Laboratory
Greensboro, North Carolina

PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

This is the *ASCLD/LAB-International Final Assessment Report* of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory - Triad Regional Laboratory. The on-site assessment was conducted during the period February 24-28, 2014.

The *ASCLD/LAB-International* assessment team consisted of the following members:

Lead Assessor:

P. Michael Kellett - Staff Assessor, ASCLD/LAB / Riverside, California

On-Site Technical Assessors:

Warren Hull, Jr. - New York State Police (retired) / Voorheesville, New York
Dale Gene Linden - Federal Bureau of Investigation (retired) / Manassas, Virginia
Dawn Walters - Florida Department of Law Enforcement / Tallahassee, Florida

Off-Site Technical Assessors:

Cassandra Burke - Baltimore County Police Department / Towson, Maryland
Kristen Burke - Sacramento County District Attorney / Sacramento, California
Diane Catley - Virginia Department of Forensic Science / Roanoke, Virginia
Carl Chasteen - Florida Division of State Fire Marshal / Havana, Florida
Yanet Gattorno - Broward County Sheriff's Office / Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Anthony Goldman - Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation / Enid, Oklahoma
Kerri Heward - Washoe County Sheriff's Office / Reno, Nevada
R. Greg Hilbig - Texas Department of Public Safety / Tyler, Texas
Pamela Mikulcik - Texas Department of Public Safety (previous) / Naperville, Illinois
Marcus Montooth - Indiana State Police / Evansville, Indiana
Jennifer Naugle - Wisconsin Department of Justice / Madison, Wisconsin
William Newhouse - Wisconsin Department of Justice / Madison, Wisconsin

OBJECTIVES OF ASSESSMENT

The assessment was conducted to assess the management and technical operations of the laboratory in accordance with the accreditation requirements specified below, and to report the findings of the assessment in a fair and impartial manner to the laboratory and to the ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors for the purpose of accreditation in accordance with the scope of the assessment.

ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

The assessment was performed using the requirements of *ISO/IEC 17025:2005*; the *ASCLD/LAB-International Supplemental Requirements for Testing Laboratories* (2011) and the laboratory's own documented management system.

The assessment took into account the relatively recent accreditation of the laboratory to *ISO/IEC 17025:2005* by another signatory to the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (IAAC MLA and ILAC MRA).

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The laboratory is seeking accreditation in and was assessed in the following areas:

Field	
Forensic Science Testing	
Discipline(s)	Categories of Testing
Drug Chemistry	Controlled Substances
Toxicology	Human Performance Forensic Toxicology (blood alcohol only)
Latent Prints	Latent Print Processing Latent Print Comparisons
Digital & Multimedia Evidence	Computer Forensics

Note 1: The laboratory was unable to provide the assessment team with sufficient completed, current casework for review during the on-site assessment or corrective action period for the Impression Evidence category of testing (under the Latent Print discipline); therefore, Impression Evidence has not been included in this scope of assessment.

Note 2: The laboratory's original application included the Quantitative Analysis category of testing in the Drug Chemistry discipline. At the request of the laboratory, this category of testing has been removed and is not included in this scope of assessment.

LABORATORY OVERVIEW

The North Carolina State Crime Laboratory - Triad Regional Laboratory is a state government laboratory that provides forensic services and assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the state of North Carolina. The laboratory is located at 2306 W. Meadowview Road, Greensboro, North Carolina. At the time of the assessment, Joseph R. John, Sr. was the laboratory director and the laboratory had a staff of 12 proficiency tested personnel and 3 non-proficiency tested personnel.

ASSESSMENT TEAM FINDINGS

The laboratory was found to be in conformance with all ASCLD/LAB-*International* accreditation requirements except for those requirements cited in Part 2 of this report, or the assessment team found that the requirement was not applicable to the operations of this laboratory.

Each requirement for which the assessment team found the laboratory to not be in total conformance was initially marked "No." For each requirement marked "No," the laboratory was provided with a Corrective Action Request (CAR) following the on-site assessment. A copy of each CAR provided to the laboratory is included in Part 2 of this report.

As reflected on the CAR documents in Part 2 of this report, the laboratory has now completed appropriate corrective actions for all CARs issued.

COMMENTS

Comments include recommendations, suggestions, or other observations documented by the assessment team that are not supported by sufficient objective evidence of non-compliance. The laboratory is not required to respond to comments. The following comment(s) were documented by the assessment team during the on-site assessment:

- The laboratory recently began providing an extensive discovery packet ("Forensic Advantage Discovery Packet") with each test report. Description of evidence and results of examination information appears on or about page one of this packet. The coverage factor associated with measurement uncertainties that are reported appears further down in this packet. In the Latent Print and Digital & Multimedia disciplines instances were observed in which neither the description of evidence nor the results of examination areas clearly stated the items that were tested. Specific information describing the items tested does appear further down in the discovery packet. The assessment team recommends that the laboratory evaluate the appropriateness of the current placement of this information within the discovery packet.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Other Considerations may include any topic, issue or information of which the ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors needs to be aware in order to make a more fully informed decision regarding the accreditation decision.

In accordance with ASCLD/LAB policy and procedures the following information was provided by the ASCLD/LAB headquarters office immediately prior to the accreditation decision:

Proficiency Testing

On-site the assessment team found the laboratory to be in conformance with all applicable proficiency testing requirements. A follow-up check with the ASCLD/LAB Proficiency Program Manager immediately prior to this final report, reveals that the laboratory is currently in conformance with all applicable, ASCLD/LAB external proficiency testing requirements.

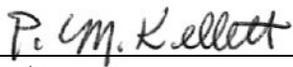
Complaints against the Laboratory

No pending complaints known to ASCLD/LAB

REPORT AUTHORIZATION

This *Final Assessment Report* of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory – Triad Regional Laboratory is issued by Lead Assessor Michael Kellett. As Lead Assessor, Mr. Kellett has reviewed the contents of this report and affirms that the report represents a true and accurate accounting of the findings of the ASCLD/LAB-*International* assessment team.

Lead Assessor Michael Kellett



Signature

May 22, 2014
Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Chuck McClelland, Quality Manager
John K. Neuner, ASCLD/LAB Executive Director
Pamela L. Bordner, ASCLD/LAB Accreditation Program Manager
Troy Hamlin, ASCLD/LAB Accreditation Program Manager

PART 2 – CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS**CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CAR) Number 1 of 1**

Laboratory Name: North Carolina State Crime Laboratory
 Laboratory Location: Greensboro
 Laboratory Contact Name: Chuck McClelland
 Contact Number: 919-662-4509 x1210
 Summation Conference Date: February 28, 2014

FINDING

Clause No.:	5.10.3.6	Source:	2011 Supplemental-Testing	Level:	1
Requirement:	When comparative examinations result in the elimination of an individual or object, the test report shall clearly communicate the elimination.				
Finding:	When latent print comparisons result in the elimination of an individual the report does not clearly communicate the elimination.				
Corrective Action Due By:	September 8, 2014				

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Lab Response:	<p>The laboratory revised the “non-identification/exclusion” result statement in procedure. The revision reads as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">5.1.6 The identifiable latent (fingerprint(s)/palmprint(s)/impression(s) was/were compared to Item (Item number) and was excluded as having been made by the same source.</p> <p>The laboratory provided training records dated March 7, 2014, regarding this change in procedure for both Raleigh and Triad personnel.</p>
Supporting Documentation Provided by Laboratory:	<p>As of May 16, 2014, the laboratory has not done any comparisons for which the conclusion was an elimination. The laboratory has provided a copy of revised procedure and a copy of a training record dated March 7, 2014.</p> <p>The laboratory is now compliant.</p>

ACCEPTANCE

Was a revisit required? No Yes

P. M. Kellett
Lead Assessor Signature

May 17, 2014
Date Accepted