



Firearms and Toolmark Identification Section

Overview

The Firearms and Toolmark Identification Section is part of the RCMP's National Police Services (NPS), providing two major areas of expertise: firearms and toolmark analysis. Firearms and Toolmark Identification sections are located in the Halifax, Regina and Vancouver laboratories of Forensic Science and Identification Services (FS&IS).

Firearms Identification

Services include:

- determining whether a bullet, cartridge case or other ammunition component has been loaded into, or fired from a particular firearm;
- determining the probable make of firearm from or in which an ammunition component was fired when no firearm is available;
- assessing the mechanical condition of firearms;
- determining the legal status of a firearm;
- determining the distance the muzzle of a firearm was from a target at the time of discharge;
- conducting analysis of bullet path at a crime scene or autopsy;
- providing serial number restoration;

- physical matching of wood, metal or plastic fragments;
- researching and expanding the Firearms Reference Table; and
- hosting and supporting the Integrated Ballistics Information System database and assisting the [Canadian Integrated Ballistics Identification Network](#) in the investigation of firearms crime.

Toolmark Identification

Services include:

- conducting gunshot residue analysis from clothing and other exhibits for range determination
- determining whether a tool mark impression was made by a given tool;
- determining the type of tool which may have created a mark if no tool was recovered

Quick Facts

Firearms and Toolmark Identification sections are located in the Halifax, Regina and Vancouver laboratories of Forensic Science and Identification Services.