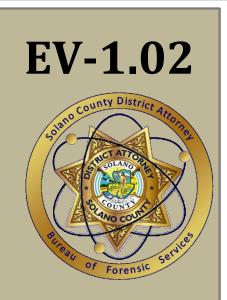
Solano County District Attorney Bureau of Forensic Services



Revision 2.1

Approval: Lab Director

Effective Date: 12/18/2020

Physical Evidence Bulletin: Blood Alcohol

Uniform Standards for Withdrawal, Handling, and Preservation of Blood Samples for Forensic Alcohol Analysis

Physical Evidence Bulletin: Blood Alcohol

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EV-1.02

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. As with all biological specimens, certain precautions must be taken. Blood sample collection kits are provided by the laboratory.

1. SAMPLING, COLLECTING AND PRESERVING

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 **MAY NOT BE USED** to clean the skin where a specimen is to be collected. Only aqueous disinfectants (e.g. benzalkonium chloride ("Zephiran") or povidone-iodine ("Betadine") may be used to disinfect the skin before venipuncture.

Sterile dry hypodermic needles and syringes or clean dry vacuum-type containers with sterile needles may be used. No reusable equipment may be used. The blood sample drawn will be deposited into a clean, dry container (commercially prepared blood collection tube) which is closed with an inert stopper. Sample containers cannot be reused.

Tubes for collecting blood must contain an anticoagulant and a preservative. The blood sample container that should be utilized for blood collection is a commercially prepared gray-stoppered tube that contains 20mg of potassium oxalate and 100mg of sodium fluoride. Any other containers or tubes may not be conducive to laboratory methods for blood alcohol or toxicology analysis and will be considered non-standard containers. Occasionally, hospital drawn blood samples may be submitted in non-standard containers. Any submission utilizing a non-standard container will be notated on the final report.

The tubes provided in the kit hold a volume of 10 mL, which is the preferred volume of blood sample for analysis. 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). Any submission containing less than the minimum quantity may still be analyzed and will be notated on the final report.

The blood sample collection kits provided by the laboratory contain two blood tubes, one of which may be retained for referee analysis by the subject.

2. 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:

Physical Evidence Bulletin: Blood Alcohol

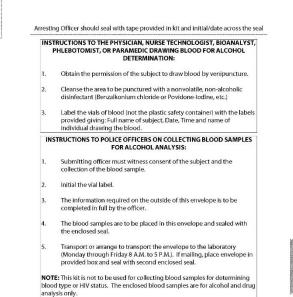
- 2.1. The label for the blood tube shall contain at least the following information:
 - 2.1.1. Full name of subject
 - 2.1.2. Initials of person drawing blood
 - 2.1.3. Date and time of blood draw
 - 2.1.4. Name or initials of witnessing officer

INITIALS OF F	ERSON
DRAWING OF BL	OOD/OR WITNESS TO URINE
DATE	TIME
WITNESSING	OFFICER

BLOOD TUBE LABEL

- 2.2. The blood tube(s) shall be sealed in the "BLOOD SAMPLE FOR ALCOHOL/DRUG ANALYSIS" envelope. The envelope should be filled out completely and include at least the following information:
 - 2.2.1. Full name of subject
 - 2.2.2. Submitting agency and agency case number
 - 2.2.3. Geographical location where blood sample was drawn; e.g., name and/or address of hospital, jail or other facility
 - 2.2.4. Name of person drawing blood sample
 - 2.2.5. Date blood sample drawn
 - 2.2.6. Time blood sample drawn
 - 2.2.7. Signature of witnessing officer
 - 2.2.8. Chain of custody for all persons handling the evidence
- 2.3. Other information such as driver's license, offense charged, anatomical location from which blood sample was drawn, or any special instructions may be added.
- 2.4. Blood kits including BLOOD SAMPLE FOR ALCOHOL/DRUG ANALYSIS envelope, security tape, two blood tubes, labels, protective blood tube containers and absorbent pad are available on request.

Office of the District Atto Bureau of Forensic Servic	es	Laboratory Barcod Only
BLOOD SAMPLE FOR ALCOH Alcohol Drugs (Amphetamines, Oplates, Cocalne) Other (Please list):	Ar G U	INALYSIS_ rest Location ty Limits incorporated Area ity
Breath results:	Device: L PAS	7110 9510
Agency:		nse is <i>NOT</i> 23152VC hicle Involved a Vehicle Involved
	s License rawal Date a	
Person Drawing Blood Location of Withdi		Date of Birth ind Time Blood Drawn Badge No
Person Drawing Blood Location of Withdi Investigating Officer (Print) Witnessing Officer Signature		ind Time Blood Drawn Badge No
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PLACE EVIDENCE SEAL HERE



ENVELOPE FRONT

ENVELOPE BACK

SECURITY TAPE

3. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BLOOD SAMPLES

- 3.1. The requesting officer should witness the withdrawal of the blood sample to verify the source and ensure the integrity of the evidence.
- 3.2. The person drawing the blood (e.g., phlebotomist or other authorized person) shall fill out and initial the labels and affix them firmly to the blood tubes.
- 3.3. The samples shall then be given to the officer who, in turn, shall initial the labels and place the samples in the prescribed envelope. The officer shall complete the required information on the envelope and securely seal with the included security tape.
- 3.4. Appropriate steps to ensure integrity of sample shall be taken:
 - 3.4.1. Once the envelope or other container is sealed, it must not be opened except for analysis in the laboratory.
 - 3.4.2. Each person having possession of the sealed envelope shall sign the space provided for recording the "Chain of Custody".

4. POST MORTEM SAMPLES

The laboratory does not routinely analyze post mortem samples.

5. ANALYSIS

The laboratory will determine the best methods to employ in the analysis of submitted evidence items. Methods used will be approved and validated by the laboratory. All samples with a reported blood alcohol concentration less than 0.10 % (w/v) or that have a felony charge will be automatically forwarded to toxicology for additional analysis.

6. RE-EXAMINATION

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

7. EVIDENCE DISPOSITION

Blood samples submitted for analysis will generally be retained by the laboratory for one year; at which time they will be 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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