

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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[www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov)



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RANDY WATSON

## NMS Laboratories On-Site Visit Report May 19, 2014

*JK* Contact Person: Christian Westring, Director of Criminalistics  
On-Site visit performed by: D. Jody Koehler

I conducted a tour of the facility.

The laboratory is designed to provide adequate security and minimize contamination and access to the laboratory is controlled and limited. The laboratory follows a documented evidence control system for handling and preserving the integrity of the physical evidence. Each sample is labeled in accordance with established agency policy and the laboratory maintains a chain of custody for all evidence.

The most recent FBI/QAS external and internal audits were reviewed. The lab is in compliance with the most current FBI QAS standards for forensic DNA testing laboratories and the laboratory is accredited.

The laboratory conducts administrative and technical reviews of all case files and reports to ensure conclusions and supporting data are reasonable and in the constraints of scientific knowledge.

All validations for the laboratory that were completed prior to this date were reviewed at this time including Identifiler Plus, Minifiler, Yfiler, Y23, and the 3100 series capillary electrophoresis instruments.

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May 22, 2014

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves to extend an agreement between the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Service and NMS Laboratories. By that agreement, the DNA profiles developed from the forensic cases examined by your laboratory through year 2015 will be evaluated by the DNA staff of our Austin Crime Laboratory for CODIS entry. Those profiles satisfying the FBI's requirements for CODIS entry will be entered and forwarded by our CODIS administrator to the appropriate level of CODIS. Only cases submitted to your laboratory by law enforcement agencies within the state of Texas are subject to this agreement.

Your laboratory must use the same technology, platform, typing amplification test kits, and analysis parameters as TXDPS and must be able to provide data in a format designated by TXDPS so as to facilitate the review process. If your laboratory uses a protocol not utilized by TXDPS, TXDPS must review all of the validations associated with the protocol and may perform a performance verification in the TXDPS laboratory to insure the profiles developed utilizing these protocols or change in analysis parameters meets TXDPS quality guidelines.

All persons performing DNA analyses for CODIS entry by TXDPS must meet the applicable FBI requirements. Any criminal case for which a profile is submitted to TXDPS by your laboratory for CODIS entry must conform to TXDPS's Case Acceptance Policies. As part of this agreement the local law enforcement agency must require your laboratory to analyze quality control samples and submit the resulting information to TXDPS for evaluation. DNA profiles determined by TXDPS to not meet FBI requirements and profiles generated using protocols not use by or previously approved by TXDPS will not be entered into CODIS. TXDPS reserves the right to re-examine, re-test, and/or re-analyze any evidence or sample thereof.

This agreement allows NMS Laboratories to submit an average of 20 cases per month for review for potential CODIS upload.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Jody Koehler'.

D. Jody Koehler  
DNA Section Manager  
Austin Crime Laboratory  
Texas Department of Public Safety