

Submitting Firearms to the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory

Objective

To prevent the inadvertent chambering of ammunition and unintentional discharge of submitted firearms.

Submitting Firearms General Requirements

- All firearms submitted to the lab MUST be unloaded, action zip tied, and a safety verification label MUST be attached to packaging of the firearm.

If the unloaded status cannot be verified:

- DO NOT submit loaded firearms to the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory lockers.
- First, contact your agency's range officer, or other agency designee, to assist with unloading the firearm.
- If the firearm unloaded status still cannot be verified AND there are pending charges where firearms analysis is needed, please call the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory at 716-858-7408 or the Firearms Section at 716-858-4748 and speak to a Firearms Examiner to discuss further.

Seven general steps to making firearms safe:

1. Identify ammunition feeding device

- Chambers.
- Cartridge magazines.



2. Remove detachable magazine, if any.
3. Visually check chamber and remove ammunition, if any.



4. Check tubular magazine and remove ammunition.



5. Place plastic cable tie through the action to prevent action from closing and to prevent inadvertent chambering of ammunition.



6. Seal items in packaging as per Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory and Police Department protocols. Either in a box or in a bag.



7. Sign safety verification label and attach to packaging.

