



# HOW TO CONFIRM A LEAD (UNCONFIRMED HIT)

If a NIBIN lead (unconfirmed hit) was communicated to your agency through a NIBIN Lead Notification Form, then at some point during your continued investigation you may determine that the lead needs to be confirmed. Please remember that not all leads need to be confirmed as a HIT.

Leads are typically confirmed for the following purposes:

- A hit is needed to aid in furthering the investigation.
- A hit is needed to obtain a warrant.
- A hit is needed for a grand jury hearing for indictment related to the lead.
- A case with a trial date in which a forensic report is needed to link the crimes involved.

The confirmation of a lead is accomplished through the microscopic comparison of the items involved in the lead. This microscopic examination must be performed by a qualified Firearms Examiner. If the microscopic examination of the items involved results in an identification then the lead's status will be changed from a lead to a confirmed hit in the NIBIN system. A confirmed hit will be the subject of a forensic laboratory report.

Therefore, the evidence involved in the lead is **required to be submitted through traditional laboratory procedure to obtain a hit**. To determine the evidence involved reference the NIBIN Entry Report and its related attachments, or the NIBIN Lead Notification Form. Remember that only a representative sample is entered into NIBIN, meaning you may want to submit all the fired cartridge cases evaluated for NIBIN for microscopic comparison results. ***If you have any questions regarding the evidence that needs to be submitted call or email our staff before submitting evidence to the laboratory.***

A confirmation of a NIBIN lead is a traditional lab request and will require the evidence to be left at the laboratory for forensic examination. Make sure to bring the following with you to the laboratory in order to obtain a confirmation of a NIBIN lead (unconfirmed hit):

1. A properly filled out WVSP Form 53 with a request for a lead confirmation. A lead confirmation request does not require a WVSP Form 53B to be completed.
2. The original pieces of evidence and/or test fires involved in the lead – this may require submission of evidence to the laboratory from multiple agencies.
  - a. If additional testing of a firearm, or comparison of fired bullets, is also needed you must ensure the firearm and associated magazine are both submitted along with the test fired cartridge cases and/or evidence that was used to obtain the NIBIN lead.
  - b. Please remember to follow standard packaging guidelines for evidence submission.
3. A copy of the NIBIN Lead Notification form.

**Contact information for the NIBIN program is 304-746-2241 or NIBIN@wvsp.gov.**