



INTERPOL

IBIN

INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network



What is IBIN?

The INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) is the only large-scale international ballistic data sharing network in the world. It supports the global networking of Integrated Ballistics Identification Systems® and provides a global platform for the centralized collection, storage and cross-comparison of ballistics data.

Why share ballistic data?

Just as fingerprint data can link crimes and criminals across international borders, so too can ballistic data. The international sharing of ballistic data can enable law enforcement agencies to find connections between separate crimes that might otherwise remain undetected.

Ballistics evidence can provide valuable firearms intelligence. Every firearm leaves unique microscopic markings on the surface areas of fired bullets and cartridge cases; a sort of "ballistic fingerprint". This ballistic evidence can be captured in high-resolution images which are then catalogued, shared and compared rapidly across jurisdictions, helping to identify links between crimes more quickly and effectively.

How does IBIN work?

IBIN enables INTERPOL member countries to share and compare digital ballistic images to reveal important firearms intelligence.

IBIN is powered by two IBIS® Correlation Servers located on different continents.

For countries with IBIS® technology:

INTERPOL member countries that possess IBIS® technology and equipment can connect directly to IBIN. An IBIN Participation Agreement is drawn up between the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) and the central national laboratory. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the participating country's data is then replicated into IBIN. The country retains full ownership of its data, including the ability to delete, update and disclose the data.

INTERPOL BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

For countries without IBIS® technology:

INTERPOL offers a free service to assist member countries that do not use IBIS® technology to access IBIN in high-profile cases. Under this arrangement, law enforcement agencies may submit test fires or “double-casts” of ballistic evidence via their country’s NCB to the INTERPOL General Secretariat. Each exhibit is processed and analysed on behalf of the submitting country, and cross-matched against IBIN data according to the information sought by the country. The correlation results are then reviewed by INTERPOL and reported to the submitting country.

A double-casting process and guidance on associated techniques have been developed for participants to enhance the consistency and quality of ballistic casts for use in IBIN.

About the Firearms Programme

A threat to the safety of citizens in all countries, the criminal misuse of firearms also poses a wider threat to global security, peace, stability and development. Firearms are easy to conceal and transport, and offer lucrative profits to criminals trafficking in illicit small arms and light weapons.

Each year, firearms are used in more than 245,000 murders worldwide, excluding war-torn countries. This figure is only a small percentage of all crimes committed with firearms. Criminals use firearms to threaten and support their criminal acts. No country is unaffected by firearms violence.

INTERPOL offers powerful tools which can help member countries to obtain firearms intelligence and advance investigations using the information on the outside of the firearm and the data that can be gleaned from inside the weapon. Together these tools support law enforcement officers to prevent, investigate and solve firearm-related crimes.

For access to INTERPOL databases and services,
please contact your INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB).



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► FIREARMS PROGRAMME
200 quai Charles de Gaulle
69006 Lyon - France
Tel: +33 4 72 44 70 00
Fax: +33 4 72 44 71 63
E-mail: firearms@interpol.int
www.interpol.int/firearms

► Twitter: @INTERPOL_HQ
► YouTube: INTERPOLHQ
► WWW.INTERPOL.INT

