



## **PART 2: BALLISTICS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE**

### ***INTERPOL BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK***

Every firearm leaves unique microscopic markings on the surface areas of fired bullets and cartridge cases; a sort of “ballistic fingerprint.” By utilizing technology that can read and catalogue these ballistic fingerprints, such as Forensic Technology’s **Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS®)**, users are able to share and compare thousands of ballistic exhibits in a matter of hours within national boundaries.

**IBIN** is a platform for the large-scale international sharing and comparing of ballistics data. In partnership with Forensic Technology, this network connects member countries or territories that use IBIS and enables the cross-border exchange of ballistic data, taking the IBIS system from the national to the international level.

Just as fingerprint data can link crimes and criminals across international borders, so too will the international sharing of ballistic data. IBIN will find connections between separate crimes that would otherwise have gone undetected. Over time, we anticipate the analysis of the shared ballistic data will reveal illicit firearms trafficking routes and provide police with critical information about firearms traffickers and other violent criminals.

#### **Who Participates in IBIN?**

**All INTERPOL member countries can participate in IBIN.** If a member country has the IBIS technology, they can directly connect to IBIN once the IBIN Participation Agreement is executed by the NCB and the National laboratory. A copy of the agreement can be found in the following pages. Should a participating country of IBIN want to leave the programme at any time, all of submitted ballistic data from that country must exit the network as well.

Countries without the IBIS technology or who have a different ballistic technology can still benefit from IBIN’s reservoir of international ballistic data by initiating an **IBIN Transmittal of Double-Casted Ballistic Evidence**. Through this service, test fires or double-casts of ballistic evidence can be sent to the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France. There the exhibit(s) will be processed for entry into

IBIN, a correlation will be performed, the correlation results will be reviewed, and reported back to the submitting country. Other than the cost of shipping, there are no fees associated with this service. The procedure for submitting exhibits for entry into IBIN is as follows:

1. Test fire the weapon in question or, if the exhibits are from a crime scene, use the double-casting techniques outlined in the chapter **Best Practice for Creating Double-Casts** to create casts of the evidence.
2. Complete the **Casted or Test Fired Ballistic Evidence Transmittal Form**.



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#### Casted or Test Fired Ballistic Evidence Transmittal Form



*This form is to accompany double-casts and test fires of ballistic evidence between an INTERPOL member country, the General Secretariat, and an IBIN member site where the acquisitions and analysis will take place. The purpose of the form is to ensure that all submitted exhibits remain accounted for throughout the process. Please attach your official laboratory report and return the completed documents to the INTERPOL Firearms Programme via electronic mail.*

Date & Reference No.	From:	To:	Description:	Request:	Action/Misc.:

INTERPOL  
200 Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006  
Lyon FR

Phone: +33( 0)4 7244 7392  
Fax: +33 (0) 47244 7351  
E-mail: t.hite@interpol.int

3. Contact your local INTERPOL NCB and inform them that you have ballistic exhibits that you wish to submit for entry to IBIN.
4. Send the exhibits to your NCB, who will then forward them to the INTERPOL General Secretariat. Include the following information in a separate memorandum:

- Which regions or countries within IBIN would you like the exhibit(s) searched against? (Where does the investigative information and intelligence lead?)
- Will you need the exhibits returned to you?
- What was the offense?
- Is there a time constraint? (Is there a defendant in custody?)
- What was the date of occurrence of the offense?
- Is the date of the occurrence unknown?
- Were there additional bullets or cartridge cases recovered that have not been submitted?

Once the exhibits have been correlated against IBIN, you will be contacted by an INTERPOL IBIN representative regarding the search results.

#### **What are the Benefits of IBIN?**

The IBIS technology has provided countries with the ability to detect links between previously unknown crimes on a national scale. IBIN allows police to detect these links on an international arena. By joining IBIN, member countries become part of an international network, giving participating countries the opportunity to search their ballistic data against that of another IBIN participating country. Bullets fired from the same gun used in multiple countries, and can be searched (correlated) with data from other countries. Hits within IBIN can provide essential leads to locate connections between crimes and crime scenes in other countries and in the locating of criminals that escape prosecution by jumping borders. Over time, as IBIN grows, IBIN will also provide statistics and intelligence about the movement of illicit firearms.