

RCMP-UEP TM2:2020

Evaluation Procedure for Tamper Evident Seals

This evaluation procedure is issued under the title Royal Canadian Mounted Police Uniform and Equipment Program Test Method 2. The year following the evaluation procedure title is the date of the initial publication or revision.

1. Document Scope

- 1.1. This evaluation procedure is used for qualitative evaluation of tamper evident seals on evidence bags.
 - 1.1.1. This evaluation procedure details the procedure in which the evidence bag is sealed and a tampering attempt is made at three locations along the edge of the tamper evident seal.
- 1.2. This evaluation procedure is suitable for the evaluation of evidence bags with flap style closures.
- 1.3. This standard may require the use of potentially hazardous materials and/ or equipment. This document does not claim to address any or all safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of anyone using this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices in conjunction with applicable regulations.

2. Applicable Documents

- 2.1. The most recent versions of the following publications are applicable to this evaluation procedure.
- 2.2. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RCMP PD-IE-02 Tamper Proof Evidence Bag

3. Definitions

- 3.1. The following definitions are applicable to this evaluation procedure.
- 3.2. **Damage** – Includes visible signs of tearing, ripping, stretching or deformation, appearance of patterns or lettering to denote tampering, and separation of adhesive from the substrate.

4. Apparatus

- 4.1. A flat table or counter with a smooth, level top. The surface shall be large enough to allow the largest size of evidence bag to be laid flat.

- 4.2. When selecting the evaluation surface, the surface shall be of appropriate height relative to the evaluator. The suggested height of the evaluation surface should be around the hip level of the evaluator.

Note: This height is suggested as it prevents the evaluator from leaning too far over the table and applying excess pressure.

5. Specimens

- 5.1. One bag in each size will be assessed.

6. Conditioning

- 6.1. Condition all specimens at room temperature for at least 24 hours prior to testing.

7. Procedure

- 7.1. Remove the release liner from the tamper evident seal to expose the adhesive. Care shall be taken not to disturb the adhesive.
- 7.2. Fold the closure flap towards the body of the bag to seal. Apply firm, even pressure with the dominant hand. Place the hand flat with the palm side against the closure flap, the top of the palm shall be positioned in the upper left corner of the closure flap. The non dominant hand may be used to stabilize the evidence bag.
- 7.3. Using firm, even pressure 5 strokes shall be made by moving the hand back and forth in a zig-zag pattern. Ensure pressure is applied to the entire surface of the closure flap. Do not lift the hand from the closure flap while sealing.
- 7.4. Allow the applied tamper evident seal to rest for 60 seconds \pm 5 seconds.
- 7.5. Three locations on the closure flap shall be tested. A period of 30 seconds \pm 2 seconds shall be allotted for tamper testing each location.
- 7.6. **Location 1 – Side opposite the dominant hand**

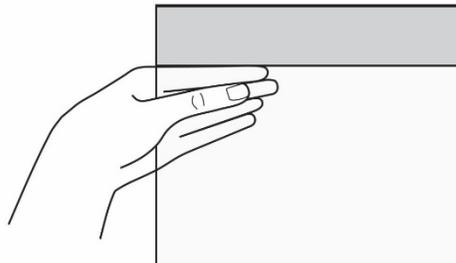


Figure 1 Example of evidence bag held in a non-dominant left hand

- 7.6.1. With the cover flap at the top of the bag and the sealed side facing up, grasp the bag between the fingers and thumb of the non-dominant hand. Hold the bag so that the bottom edge of the cover flap is in line with the top of the index finger on the non-dominant hand.
- 7.6.2. A period of 30 seconds \pm 2 seconds shall be allotted for performing the tamper test. Starting in the corner closest to the grip of the non-dominant hand, use the thumb nail of the dominant hand to attempt to loosen the seal. If the edge of the cover flap lifts, use the thumb and fingers of the dominant hand to grip the cover flap and attempt to open the tamper evident seal without damage to the seal or bag.
- 7.6.3. Inspect the evidence bag specimen for damage. If observations of damage are noted, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a pass.
- 7.6.4. If no observations of damage are noted and the tamper test resulted in an opening equal to or greater than 0.5 inches in the tamper evident seal, attempt to reseal by applying firm pressure for 15 seconds \pm 2 seconds to the opened portion.
- 7.6.5. Allow the tamper evident seal to rest for 60 seconds \pm 5 seconds.
- 7.6.6. If the tamper evident seal can be resealed, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a fail.
- 7.7. **Location 2 – Side of dominant hand**

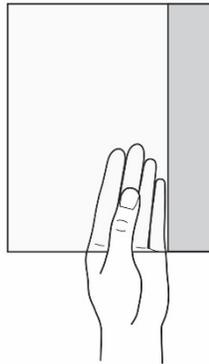


Figure 2 Example of evidence bag held in a non-dominant left hand

- 7.7.1. Turn the evidence bag on its side so that the cover flap is positioned towards the dominant hand. With the sealed side facing up, grasp the bag between the fingers and thumb of the non-dominant hand. Hold the bag so that the bottom edge of the cover flap is in line with the pinky finger on the non-dominant hand.
- 7.7.2. A period of 30 seconds \pm 2 seconds shall be allotted for performing the tamper test. Starting in the corner closest to the grip of the non-dominant hand, use the thumb nail of the dominant hand to attempt to loosen the seal. If the edge of the cover flap lifts, use the thumb and fingers of the dominant hand to grip the cover flap and attempt to open the tamper evident seal without damage to the seal or bag.
- 7.7.3. Inspect the evidence bag specimen for damage. If observations of damage are noted, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a pass.

- 7.7.4. If no observations of damage are noted and the tamper test resulted in an opening equal to or greater than 0.5 inches in the tamper evident seal, attempt to reseal by applying firm pressure for 15 seconds \pm 2 seconds to the opened portion.
- 7.7.5. Allow the tamper evident seal to rest for 60 seconds \pm 5 seconds.
- 7.7.6. If the tamper evident seal can be resealed, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a fail.
- 7.8. **Location 3 – Center of tamper evident seal**

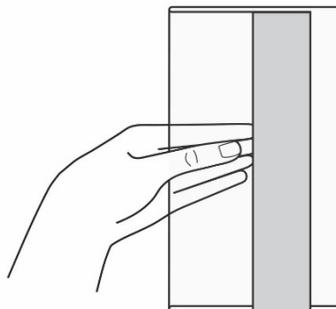


Figure 3 Example of evidence bag held in a non-dominant left hand

- 7.8.1. Turn the evidence bag on its side so that the cover flap is positioned towards the dominant hand. Measure 2.5 inches down from the bottom edge of the cover flap and fold the remaining portion of the bag under. Grasp the bag between the fingers and thumb of the non-dominant hand. Ensure that the thumb of the non-dominant hand does not overlap the cover flap.
- 7.8.2. A period of 30 seconds \pm 2 seconds shall be allotted for performing the tamper test. Starting at the edge in the center of the cover flap, use the thumb nail of the dominant hand to attempt to loosen the seal. If the edge of the cover flap lifts, use the thumb and fingers of the dominant hand to grip the cover flap and attempt to open the tamper evident seal without damage to the seal or bag.
- 7.8.3. Inspect the evidence bag specimen for damage. If observations of damage are noted, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a pass.
- 7.8.4. If no observations of damage are noted and the tamper test resulted in an opening equal to or greater than 0.5 inches in the tamper evident seal, attempt to reseal by applying firm pressure for 15 seconds \pm 2 seconds to the opened portion.
- 7.8.5. Allow the tamper evident seal to rest for 60 seconds \pm 5 seconds.
- 7.8.6. If the tamper evident seal can be resealed, the tamper evident seal is recorded as a fail.

8. Reporting

- 8.1. Report the number of specimens by size.

8.2. Report the pass or fail result of each specimen.