

2

C I R C U L A R No. 327/2007

Consequent upon installation of Voice Analysis Equipment at the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Bhubaneswar, cases involving voice analysis and speaker identification will now be examined at State Forensic Science Laboratory, Bhubaneswar from 1st October, 2007.

Necessary guidelines for recording of speech / voice samples for speaker identification and voice analysis are enclosed in a separate sheet for information and guidance. The exhibits should be sent filling the proforma enclosed for the purpose.

D.G. & I.G. OF POLICE,
ORISSA, CUTTACK.

Memo No. _____ / FSL

Dated

Copy along with copy of Guidelines forwarded to all Superintendents of Police, Orissa for information with a request to circulate amongst all concerned for information and necessary action.

D.G. & I.G. OF POLICE,
ORISSA, CUTTACK.

Memo No. _____ / FSL

Dated

Copy along with copy of Guidelines forwarded to all Range D.I.s.G. of Police, Orissa for information and necessary action.

D.G. & I.G. OF POLICE,
ORISSA, CUTTACK.

Memo No. _____ / FSL

Dated

Copy along with copy of Guidelines forwarded to Director-cum-DG & IG of Police, Vigilance, Orissa, Cuttack for favour of information.

D.G. & I.G. OF POLICE,
ORISSA, CUTTACK.

GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING OF SPEECH / VOICE SAMPLES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SPEAKER

The technique of Speaker Identification requires two types of samples namely questioned sample (crime sample) and specimen sample (control samples of the suspects). The following are the guidelines for obtaining speech samples for the purpose of Speaker Identification.

RECORDING OF QUESTIONED VOICE SAMPLE:

- 1) Questioned samples can be obtained through a high quality tape recorder like TIR (Telephone Information Recorder) or using Digital (or) manual voice recorders installed at Police Station or Police Headquarters.
- 2) For telephone calls, Recording System / TIR should be connected to the victim's telephone line directly. A good quality tape cassette of sixty minutes should always be available in the tape recorder.
- 3) Mobile phone calls may be through Mobile-to-Mobile Phone, landline telephone to mobile phones or mobile to land line telephone. In case of mobile to mobile and landline to mobile calls, the conversation can be recorded on receiving mobile phones itself by inbuilt memory chip or by taking the output from the mobile at the receiving end through a cable jack for input in the computer or tape recording device. In case of mobile to landline telephone calls, the conversation can be recorded on TIR.
- 4) The recorded questioned sample can also be obtained by using hidden or undercover tape recorder or a transmitter. In such cases, the voice activated recorder or digital pen recorder is preferred. Sometimes, F.M. transmitter microphone is preferred to record conversation, so that the process of recording can be done remotely.

RECORDING OF SPECIMEN VOICE SAMPLE:

1. An accurate transcript of the text of the recorded questioned voice / conversation should first be made. *Page - 62 A.*
2. Investigating Officer should become familiar with the transcript (the rate of speaking / aural characteristics of the criminal's voice) prior to obtaining samples of the known persons / suspects.
2. Recording system should be set up with a telephone line, if the questioned voice has been recorded through a telephone. In addition, direct recorded voice is also needed.
4. The Investigating Officer should state the date, time, place, his name and ^{his} name & address of the suspect.
5. The recording of the specimen sample should be performed in presence of two independent witnesses. The witness should speak about their particulars like name, father's name, residential locality, occupation, etc. and he also should speak that "I Mr. 'X', son of Mr. 'A', resident of 'B' locality, in my presence the speech sample of Mr. 'Y' is being recorded.
6. The Investigating Officer should repeat recording of the original text of the questioned voice at least five times till he is satisfied that the suspect is not deceiving ^{by imitating his} voice in any way.
7. In case, the suspect is not educated and ~~he~~ can not read the prepared text or transcript, the sample can be recorded by making ^{the} conversation with suspect. The conversation should be prolonged in such a manner that the relevant words are repeated a number of times. The similar text in the same language should be prepared for recording the specimen samples.

15. In the event a suspect disguising his voice, the Investigating Officer should ask the repetition of the disguised words, until he feels satisfied.

16. The recording should be played back before the suspect leaves, so that any deficiency of the sample can be converted.

17. In case any clarification is required, the Investigating Officer may get in touch with State Forensic Science Laboratory, Rasulgarih, Bhubaneswar (Phone No. 0674 - 2586187 / 2586417).

PRECAUTIONS:

1. fresh chromium oxide cassette tape (C - 60) should be used. Cassettes (C - 90) or (C - 120) should not be used.
2. As far as possible, the tape recorders should be operated on 220 Volt A.C. In other cases, new batteries are to be used for each recording.
3. A high quality apparatus (high frequency and high intensity) may be used for recording. Mini cassettes are not suitable and hence not recommended. A recorder with two track techniques and having "Auto Level Control" should be preferred.
4. Complete Automation with respect to the recording unit is preferable.
5. The recording should be made while the speed not less than 4 - 75 cm / Sec.
6. Prior to each recording, the recording head of the apparatus is required to be cleaned with head cleaner.
7. The recording system should be tested prior to the actual recording.

8. If the suspect refuses to acknowledge the text spoken in the questioned sample, the sample can be taken in different text of the same language. The text should be prepared in such a manner that the relevant words in the questioned sample should be repeated a number of times.

9. While recording a reasonably quiet environment should be maintained.

10. The microphone should be placed about 30 cm (1 feet) from the mouth of the suspect. The recording system should ensure a frequency response as same as or better than the telephone line.

11. Information about the recording environment, recording system used in questioned samples, if known the Investigating Officer should collect it. If possible, the same should be maintained in recording of the specimen samples and the information regarding recording environment and device should be provided to the Laboratory.

12. Make the suspect conversant with the specimen speech before the recording starts.

13. The speaker should speak in normal speed and (loudness). It is an essential requirement to stabilize the speech of the speaker for which he may be asked to speak continuously for two minutes before he reads the prepared text. The speaker should be directed not to speak too fast or too slow, But he should read / speak normally.

14. The Investigating Officer should make all efforts to eliminate as much background noise as possible by not running Air Conditioner fan or overlapping conversation.

8. Proper placement, an adequate tape and good quality microphone preferably an unidirectional one is to be used.
9. Original recording should be sent to the Laboratory for examination.
10. Recorded cassettes should be properly protected from dust, moisture, heat, etc. and properly labeled.
11. Questioned and specimen samples should be on separate cassette with proper marking and duration of recording.
12. Recorded cassettes should be kept away from magnets.
13. Irrelevant portions of the recording should not be deleted by the Investigating Officer rather than ^{this} it should be described.
14. For tamperproof sealing while seizing, the ^{label} level in which the cassette is packed should contain the signature of the independent witnesses and date ^{and} along with specs of the cassette and recording equipment.
15. As the magnetic tapes are susceptible for damage, it is preferable to keep a copy in digital media as back up. The fact of taking back up can be informed to the Hon'ble Court while submitting the recorded cassette at earliest point of time after recording.

D.G. & I.G. OF POLICE,
ORISSA, CUTTACK

(9)

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

The Director, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Bhubaneswar is hereby authorized to examine the exhibits sent to him / her in connection with Case No. _____ dated _____ u/s _____, if necessary to break them into pieces or remove portions for the purpose of said examination.

Signature of the Forwarding Authority

Enclosure:

1. Transcription of conversation in vernacular language contained in Cassette No. 1.
2. Transcription of conversation in vernacular language contained in Cassette No. 2.