

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS FOR TOOL MARK COMPARISONS</b>
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### **13.0 Possible Conclusions for Microscopic Comparison of Tool Marks**

- 13.1. **Identification:** There is present an agreement of a combination of individual characteristics and all discernible class characteristics where the extent of agreement exceeds that which can occur in the comparison of tool marks made by different tools and is consistent with the agreement demonstrated by tool marks known to have been produced by the same tool.

13.1.1 The tool mark was made by the suspect tool.

13.1.2 The tool marks were made by the same tool

13.1.3 The broken tool tip/blade was at one time part of the suspect tool.

- 13.2 **Inconclusive:** A: There is some agreement of individual characteristics and all discernible class characteristics, but insufficient for an identification.

B: There is agreement of all discernible class characteristics without agreement or disagreement of individual characteristics due to an absence, insufficiency, or lack of reproducibility.

C: There is an agreement of all discernible class characteristics and disagreement of individual characteristics, but insufficient for elimination.

13.2.1 It cannot be determined if the tool mark was or was not made by the suspect tool.

13.2.2 It cannot be determined if the tool marks were made by the same tool

13.2.3 It cannot be determined if the broken tool tip/blade was or was/not at one time part of the suspect tool.

**FIREARM AND TOOL MARK SECTION  
TECHNICAL PROCEDURES MANUAL**

**SECTION 13  
JULY 1, 1996**

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13.3    **Elimination:** There is significant disagreement of discernible class characteristics and/or individual characteristics.

13.3.1 The tool mark was not made by the suspect tool.

13.3.2 The tool marks were not made the same tool.

13.3.3 The broken tool tip/blade was not at one time part of the suspect tool.

13.4    **Unsuitable:** Unsuitable for microscopic comparison.

13.4.1 There were no tool marks present on the submitted item

13.5    Examiners must include in their notes all conclusions reached from the microscopic comparison of tool marks and/or test tool marks. Examiners must also explain the reasons for reaching these conclusions. The reasons must be clear and succinct and should be able to be understood by any other competent tool mark examiner. The examiners should include the position and type of index marks used. A sample notes page can be viewed on the next page.

13.6    No formatted spaces on any case work sheets are to be left blank. It is permissible to use N/A (not applicable) or a single line through unused spaces. If a work sheet contains multiple formatted sections, those not utilized must be crossed through or deleted.