

Section K - Subsection 1 Footwear Impressions (Examination) Page 1

Name of Procedure:

Footwear Impressions (Examination)

Suggested Uses:

This procedure is a method of comparing a questioned footwear impression to a known footwear impression to effect a positive or conclusive identification.

Equipment Needed to Perform Procedures:

A - Clear Acetate overlay of known footwear impression

B - Calipers

Chemicals Needed For Preparation of Chemical Solution(s):

Not Applicable

Formula/Directions for Preparation of Chemical Solution(s):

Not Applicable

Processing Procedures for Application to Item(s) of Evidence:

1. The clear acetate overlay of the known footwear impression is placed over the questioned footwear impression (cast, photograph or lift of a hard surface footwear impression). They are compared to determine if the size, sole design and general wear characteristics are consistent in the known impression and the questioned impression.
2. Calipers are then used to measure the distances between specific points on the sole and the same points on the questioned footwear impression.
3. Once it has been determined that the class and general wear characteristics are consistent, an examination is conducted to determine if there are any unique or identifying characteristics present in both impressions. Unique characteristics are any features that would cause an item to become "one-of-kind." These characteristics include nicks, cuts, abrasions or tears which have occurred randomly as a result of the use or abuse of the shoes.
4. When a sufficient number of unique or identifying characteristics are present in both the questioned and known footwear impression, it is possible that the known shoe can be "identified" as the particular shoe that made the questioned footwear impression.

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Steps to Preserve Developed Impressions:

The developed impression may be preserved through photography with the appropriate techniques utilized (See Photographic Equipment/Procedures) or electronic recording (See Image Processing). See the above Processing Procedures for additional preservation information.

Safety Concerns:

Not Applicable

Storage and Location of Chemicals and Solutions:

Not Applicable

Shelf Life:

Not Applicable

Other Information:

Not Applicable