

Technical Procedure for Forensic Technician Processes

1.0 Purpose - This procedure establishes standard operating procedures when a Forensic Technician assists with the processing of latent evidence casework.

2.0 Scope - This procedure is used in order to maintain a more efficient work flow in the processing of evidence.

2.1 The Forensic Technician has been trained and competency-tested in the entire standard chemical processing and photography steps for all procedures within the technical procedures manual. It is essential that the Forensic Technician document in Forensic Advantage (FA) the tasks completed and the results produced (as provided in the Procedure for Record and Data Management).

Note: The Forensic Technician has not been trained in the proper analysis of friction ridge detail and shall not be expected to evaluate or conduct any other part of the Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (ACE-V) methodology used by Forensic Scientists to examine friction ridge detail.

3.0 Definitions - N/A

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents - N/A

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Steps for Processing

5.1.1 Prior to processing items of evidence, the competency of the Forensic Technician shall be demonstrated through testing involving the standard chemical processing and photography steps for procedures within the technical procedures manual.

5.1.2 All evidence transferred to the Forensic Technician shall be documented using FA (as provided in the Procedure for Record and Data Management). The Forensic Technician shall use FA to document the transfer of all evidence back to the Forensic Scientist upon completion of all processing steps.

5.1.3 If the Forensic Technician completes sequential processing steps (i.e., ninhydrin, zinc chloride, and physical developer), then the Forensic Scientist shall review all evidence processed and evaluate it for the presence of friction ridge detail prior to the Forensic Technician proceeding to the next sequential processing step.

5.1.4 The Forensic Technician shall document in FA a description of work performed, direct observations, consultations with the Forensic Scientist and date completed. For example, if ninhydrin, zinc chloride and physical developer are used by the Technician, he/she must document each chemical test and the results of the processing (color change/positive test print and/or ridge detail developed or no ridge detail developed and consultations with the Forensic Scientist between processing steps, etc.).

5.2 Standards and Controls - N/A

5.3 Calibration - N/A

5.4 Sampling - N/A

5.5 Calculations - N/A

5.6 Uncertainty of Measurement - N/A

6.0 Limitations - N/A

7.0 Safety - N/A

8.0 References

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Manual of Fingerprint Development Techniques: A Guide to the Selection and Use of Processes for the Development of Latent Fingerprints. Scientific Research and Development Branch, London (1986).

Trozzi, T.A., R.L. Schwartz, and M.L. Hollars. *Processing Guide for Developing Latent Prints*. (2000): 1-64.

US Department of Justice. *Chemical Formulas and Processing Guide for Developing Latent Prints*. FBI Laboratory Division, Latent Fingerprint Section (1994).

9.0 Records - N/A

10.0 Attachments - N/A

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
09/17/2012	1	Original Document