
Technical Procedure for Ensuring Quality Control

1.0 Purpose - This procedure provides measures to ensure the quality of work conducted in the Latent Evidence discipline.

2.0 Scope - This procedure applies to all casework performed within the Digital/Latent Evidence Section.

3.0 Definitions – N/A

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents – N/A

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Laboratory Control Samples (Positive Controls/Test Prints)

5.1.1 Test prints, also called control samples or positive controls, shall be performed on all chemical processing steps in order to determine if the analytical process has been performed properly. The test print shall be prepared on a substrate similar to the actual item of evidence and shall be tested and verified prior to application to the evidence. In the case of cyanoacrylate fuming, the test print shall be processed simultaneously with the evidence. The results of the test print shall be recorded in the case record in the FA System. A positive result is defined as the presence of friction ridge detail within the test print.

5.2 Independent Analysis/Review of Data

5.2.1 All analysis performed within the Latent Evidence discipline shall be independent with conclusions based on scientifically sound premises. The Laboratory recognizes the following concepts:

5.2.1.1 No two (2) individuals have been found to have the same fingerprint.

5.2.1.2 The fingerprint does not change naturally from before birth until after death, barring scars or mutilation.

5.2.1.3 An identification is effected when a sufficient number of unique identifying characteristics are present in both the known and questioned impressions without any unexplained differences.

5.2.1.4 There is no scientific requirement of a minimum number of identifying characteristics in order to effect a positive identification.

5.3 Tolerance Limits for Matches

5.3.1 All friction ridge identifications shall be verified by another qualified latent impressions analyst. Both analysts shall agree on the interpretation of the data to be reported. Conflicts shall be decided as provided in the Procedure for Reviewing Laboratory Reports.

5.3.2 All questioned footwear impression identifications and/or eliminations shall be verified by another qualified footwear analyst. Both analysts shall agree on the interpretation of the data to be reported.

5.3.3 All questioned tire track impression identifications and/or eliminations shall be verified by another qualified tire track analyst. Both analysts shall agree on the interpretation of the data to be reported.

5.3.4 All other questioned impression identifications and/or eliminations shall be verified by another qualified analyst. Both analysts shall agree on the interpretation of the data to be reported.

5.3.5 Conflicts shall be handled as provided in the Procedure for Reviewing Laboratory Reports.

5.4 Standards and Controls – N/A

5.5 Calibration – N/A

5.6 Sampling – N/A

5.7 Calculations – N/A

5.8 Uncertainty of Measurement – N/A

6.0 Limitations - N/A

7.0 Safety - N/A

8.0 References – This Technical Procedure was extracted from the 2009 Latent Evidence Section Policy and Procedures Manual.

9.0 Records – N/A

10.0 Attachments –N/A

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
09/17/2012	1	Original Document
10/31/2013	2	Added issuing authority to header