

A. Purpose:

The following range of conclusions and definitions were developed by the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) to use as a guideline for reporting the results when conducting a microscopic comparison. The descriptions of such results in an examination report may be worded as the examiner sees fit.

B. Responsibility:

Forensic Science Examiners assigned to the Firearms Unit.

C. Range of Conclusions:

1. Identification:

Agreement of all discernible class characteristics and sufficient agreement of a combination of individual characteristics where the extent of agreement exceeds that which can occur in the comparison of toolmarks made by different tools and is consistent with the agreement demonstrated by toolmarks known to have been produced by the same tool.

2. Inconclusive:

- i. Agreement of all discernible class characteristics and some agreement of individual characteristics, but insufficient for an identification.
- ii. Agreement of all discernible class characteristics without agreement or disagreement of individual characteristics due to an absence, insufficiency, or lack of reproducibility.

3. Elimination:

Disagreement of discernible class characteristics and/or individual characteristics.

4. Unsuitable:

Unsuitable for examination.

D. References:

1. AFTE Glossary