

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.

When an association is made the report shall indicate that the identification was made based on similar class characteristics and sufficient agreement of individual characteristics.

2. Inconclusive:

- i. Agreement of all discernible class characteristics and some agreement of individual characteristics, but insufficient for an identification.

Note: Can be referred to in the worksheets/photos as an "Inconclusive A".

- ii. Agreement of all discernible class characteristics without agreement or disagreement of individual characteristics due to an absence, insufficiency, or lack of reproducibility.

Note: This conclusion would be referred to in the worksheets/photos as simply "Inconclusive".

When an inclusive finding is made, the report shall include the reason for such result.

3. Elimination:

Disagreement of discernible class characteristics and/or individual characteristics.

When an elimination is made, the report should indicate the reason for this elimination.

4. Unsuitable:

Unsuitable for examination.

D. References:

1. AFTE Glossary

ARCHIVED