

IM SOP-1 Introduction

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Purpose: Introduction

The procedures presented in this technical manual are designed to serve as a basic foundation for conducting imprint examinations. The methodologies and procedures contained in this manual are not all encompassing. The wide variety of imprint problems, which can be encountered by the imprint examiner, precludes using this manual as a “cookbook” for examination purposes. Certain cases may require divergence from, and/or adaptations to these written procedures (See GL-20).

The competent Imprint Examiner must also rely on his or her experience and training, reference materials available in various scientific and technical papers, publications and texts, online resources, consultations with experts in a specific field and/or new developments within the imprint examination field.

The exact procedures(s) employed by an imprints examiner is dependent upon the evidence submitted and the type(s) of examinations requested. All non-standard methods will be validated prior to being implemented. Deviations from standard methods must be approved by the Deputy Director or designee prior to proceeding and documentation maintained in the case record.

Responsibility: Forensic Science Examiners assigned to the Imprint Unit are responsible to follow the guidance of this procedure.

Safety: N/A

Procedure: N/A

Sources of Error: N/A

Quality Assurance: N/A

References: See bibliography.