

IM SOP-5 Lifting

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

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Purpose: To recover latent and patent imprint/impressions in dust or residue from suspect items.

Responsibility: Imprint Examiners

Safety: All proper personal protection equipment will be used as appropriate.

Procedure:

Materials:

1. Electrostatic lifting device
2. Grounding material
3. Lifting film
4. Oblique lighting source
5. Large transparent adhesive lifters
6. Large white backed adhesive lifters
7. Large black backed adhesive lifters
8. Large transparent gelatin lifters
9. Large white backed gelatin lifters
10. Large black backed gelatin lifters
11. Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA)

Procedures:

1. Examine area using oblique lighting source to identify location(s) of any visible dust or residue imprint/impression(s).
2. Determine which area(s) are to be processed with electrostatic lifting device or adhesive/gel lifters.

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3. Photograph area(s) where lifts are to be conducted.
4. When using the electrostatic lifting device, place lifting film – black side down – on top of surface where imprint/impression(s) are to be lifted, set up appropriate ground device, and continue with electrostatic lift procedure(s) using established and accepted standards and practices.
5. When using adhesive or gel lifters, remove the cover from the lifter, place the lifter over the impression, use your hands or a roller to ensure that the lifter contacts the entire impression, remove lifter and place the cover back over the impression.
6. When using the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA) follow the SOP for the Questioned Documents Unit regarding the proper use of the ESDA.
6. Photograph lifted images.
7. Secure lifts in proper container.
8. Mark container with appropriate identification markings.
9. Sub-itemize the lift in JusticeTrax and place a barcode on the evidence container. Lifts will be returned to the submitting agency.

Results:

Permanent record of dust or residue imprint/impression(s).

Sources of Error: N/A

Quality Assurance: N/A

References: See bibliography.