

A. Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the processing of latent print evidence.

B. Responsibility:

Latent Print Examiners

C. Procedure:

1. When processing latent print evidence, lab coats, masks and gloves will be worn.
2. Eye protection will be worn whenever there is a possibility of injury to the eyes.
3. Down Flow Workstations will be utilized whenever possible during the application of various powdering techniques.
4. All equipment which will be handled during the examination process including: writing instruments, cameras, tweezers and magnifying glasses will be wiped down with an appropriate decontamination solution (as determined by the DNA section) prior to latent print analysis of items that will later be swabbed for DNA. The examiner will be mindful of contamination issues.
5. The examination process will be documented (see SOP-LP-01). Worksheets will be completed on every case.
6. A thorough visual examination of submitted evidence will be conducted. Visible friction ridges of identification or comparison value will be documented (see SOP-LP-01).
7. The examiner will determine the appropriate method of processing to be utilized. Developed friction ridges of comparison or identification value will be documented. The examiner will determine the next appropriate step(s) when utilizing sequential processing techniques. Each step will be documented.
8. The determination to obtain lifts after processing are at the option of the examiner. The lifting of a latent print will only be executed after adequate photographs have been taken. All generated lifts shall contain the laboratory case #, Item#, and the examiner's initials.
- 8.1 At the discretion of the examiner, laboratory generated lifts may be turned over to the submitting agency or retained by the laboratory. All laboratory generated lifts will be itemized in LIMS. Lifts retained by the laboratory will be kept in Latent Print File Storage.
9. When the examination is completed, all evidence should be marked by the examiner for identification at a later time. There will be times when marking evidence is neither realistic or appropriate. This may be more common with some types of evidence than others. When evidence is not marked the examiner will make every effort to assure that it is properly documented for identification at a later time.

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

D. Sources of Error:

E. References:

ASCLD/LAB Appendix A Latent print examination documentation (see 4.13.2.5.1)

Ashbaugh, D. Quantitative-Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1999

FBI Standard Operating Procedures for Examining Friction ridge Prints. Revision 4, 02/17/10

FBI Standard Operating Procedures for Digital Images. Revision 3, 12/01/08

Lee, H., Gaensslen, R. Advances in Fingerprint Technology. Elsevier, NY, 1991

Tuthill, H. Individualization: Principles and Procedures in Criminalistics. Lightning Powder Co., FL, 2002

Cowger, J. Friction Ridge Skin.