

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

A. Purpose: To establish a standard for the determination of the quality of friction ridge impressions that will be initially examined for property crimes in an effort to reduce the current backlog and maintain acceptable case turn-a-round times.

B. Responsibility:

Latent Print Examiners

C. Procedure:

1. This procedure applies to property crimes only.
2. Upon the initial review of evidence submitted for examination to the Latent Print Section, only those friction ridge impressions determined to be of identification value will be compared and entered into the AFIS databases when appropriate.
3. Friction ridge impressions determined to be of comparison value will not be further examined. As a general rule, friction ridge impressions containing less than seven (7) clear and concise ridge characteristics will not be further examined or searched in the AFIS databases. Examiner discretion to this section is allowed based on individual case circumstances.
4. Friction ridge impressions determined to be of comparison value will still be properly documented for future use.
5. The following statement will be included automatically on all latent print section reports:

For property crime cases only: Friction ridge impressions other than those determined to be of identification value, are not being examined or compared at this time unless a suspect has been developed or an official request for such examination has been submitted to this laboratory.