

SWGFAST

**Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge
Analysis, Study and Technology**

Welcome to the SWGFAST Town Hall Meeting

Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge
Analysis, Study and Technology

International Association for Identification - Tampa, Florida - August 2009



Recent Changes

- Posting process
 - A document review committee (DRC) takes work approved at a SWGFAST meeting and completes final formatting prior to being submitted to the Webmaster for posting.
 - While this process delays making documents available to the community it removes the editing process from the meeting thus providing more time for other work.

Recent Changes

- Document dates
 - Approval and posting dates will both be included on documents that are reviewed by the DRC.
 - Approval dates indicate when it was voted on by the SWGFAST members.
 - Posting dates are established when the document is made available on the SWGFAST website.

Recent Changes

- Archived documents
 - As previously posted guidelines and standards are replaced they will be moved to an archive area on the website for later reference.

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Recent Changes

- Link to SWGFAST documents on IAI website
 - Changes are being implemented to avoid links to non-current SWGFAST documents through the IAI website.

Current Work

- Research recommendations
 - SWGFAST is working on the finalization of a list of research topics that would further support the needs of the friction ridge community.
- Standard for Friction Ridge Digital Imaging (Latent/Tenprint)
 - A recent comment and related SWGIT recommendation are being considered.

Current Work

- Five year document review
 - SWGFAST bylaws require a periodic review of existing documents. Currently three documents are going through this process.
 - Friction Ridge Methodology for Latent Print Examiners
 - Standards for Conclusions
 - Consideration is being given to consolidating the Methodology and Conclusions documents
 - Validation of Research and Technology

Recent Work Approved

- Glossary
 - Terms more appropriately addressed by other authorities have been removed.
- Standard for Friction Ridge Automation Training (Latent/Tenprint)
- Standard for Friction Ridge Comparison Proficiency Testing Program (Latent Tenprint)
- Response to the NAS Report

Recent Work

Draft For Comment

- Standard for the Documentation of ACE-V (Latent) *DRAFT FOR COMMENT*
- Minimum Qualifications and Training to Competency Standards for Friction Ridge Examiners (Latent/Tenprint) *DRAFT FOR COMMENT*

- **Admiral Yamamoto, 1941**

...awakened the sleeping giant.

- **The Standard for the Documentation of ACE-V (Latent) *DRAFT FOR COMMENT* has generated significant commentary from the community. Although Admiral Yamamoto's comment bore a negative connotation, SWGFAST considers this stimulation of interest as a positive sign.**

- Recent cases call for documentation
- Attempt to address
- Encourage community input
- Would prefer to have community consensus

***DRAFT FOR COMMENT
STANDARD FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF ACE-V
(LATENT)***

Preamble

Documentation ... could be ... annotated images, narratives, worksheets, annotated legible copies, sketches, AFIS or other electronic system records, or any combination of these methods.

Examples that may be selected from are shown in Appendix B.

Analysis – Latent Print

1.1 Latent Prints

1.1.1 The presence of friction ridge impressions, including those that are of no value for comparison, shall be documented.

Discussion: Document that ridge detail was observed not documentation on each fragment. Agency policy defining what needs to be notated could be considered .

Analysis – Latent Print

1.1.2 Analysis documentation of the latent print shall be completed prior to comparison.

The quality and quantity of the information present in the latent print will dictate the extent of the documentation.

Analysis – Latent Print

... minimum, the following, when available, must be documented in the case record:

Anatomical aspect (e.g., fingerprint, palmprint)

Orientation (e.g., tip up)

Presence of Level 1 detail

Presence of Level 2 detail

Substrate

Development medium

Preservation method (e.g., lift, photograph, legible copy)

Analysis – Latent Print

- 1.1.3 If the original friction ridge impression determined to be of value for comparison will not be maintained in the case record, a legible copy of the friction ridge impression shall be retained.

Discussion: ASCLD/LAB Requirement

Analysis – Known Prints

1.2.1 At a minimum, the following, when available, must be documented in the case record:

Unique identifier of the exemplar such as name, date of birth, assigned identification number, or reference to the specific exemplars (e.g., date of arrest, date of recording).

Anatomical aspect(s) represented in the exemplars (fingerprints, palmprints, or footprints)

Medium (e.g., ink, livescan)

Origin (e.g., printed from archive, direct submission)

Analysis – Known Prints

1.2.2 ... deemed insufficient for comparison or that contain any factors which may affect the comparison shall be documented. The quality and quantity of the information present will dictate the extent of the documentation. These factors may include:

- Incomplete recording of the friction ridge skin

- Missing anatomical aspects (e.g., palms, phalanges)

- Unclear recording of the friction ridge skin

Comparison

2.1 ... the information relied upon during the comparison, must be made for each comparison. At a minimum, a legible copy of the known print must be retained. The complexity of the comparison will dictate the extent of the documentation.

Comparison

2.2 If additional analysis of the latent print occurs, supplemental notes shall be added and dated.

Discussion: Intent is to apply to significant additional analysis.

Evaluation

3.1/3.2 Documentation of an identification/exclusion shall include:

Specific latent friction ridge impression examined

Unique identifier of the exemplar(s) used to reach the conclusion

Anatomical aspect (e.g., right thumb, left palm)

Initials, signature, ... of examiner

Date conclusion reached

Evaluation

3.3 Documentation of an inconclusive shall include:

Specific latent friction ridge impression examined

Unique identifier of the exemplar(s) used to reach the conclusion

Reason (e.g., better exemplars needed, specific anatomical aspects needed, insufficient detail in agreement)

Initials, signature, ... of examiner

Date conclusion reached

Evaluation

3.4 Conclusions shall be documented prior to verification.

Discussion: Verifications conducted prior to a conclusion having been documented are more likely to be considered as consultations.

Verification

Verification shall be documented and shall include:

Specific latent friction ridge impression examined

Unique identifier of the specific exemplar(s) used to reach the conclusion

Anatomical aspect

Conclusion of the verifying examiner

Initials, signature, or equivalent, (e.g., unique identifier, electronic signature) of examiner

Date of the verification

Consultations

Consultations shall be documented and shall include:

Specific friction ridge impression reviewed

Nature of consultation (e.g., discussed distortion in core)

Initials, signature, or equivalent (e.g., unique identifier, electronic signature) of examiner(s)

Date of the consultation

Discussion: A consultation should be defined by the agency. Examples that may fall outside of this requirement would include orientation or tonal reversal discussions.

Appendix A

... additional analysis factors that may be considered for documentation.

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Appendix B

... examples of analysis documentation.

Discussion: Should an agency/examiner elect to use the given examples, the decision on which to use may be based on the complexity of the particular examination as provided for in 2.1.

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Community Input

- Encouraged
- All submitted comments are shared with the membership or the appropriate committee for consideration
 - Please submit them in writing (email) to SWGFAST Secretary
 - Instructions can be found at www.swgfast.org
 - Comment period
 - Established to facilitate meeting schedules, but may be adjusted if required to assure full participation from the community

Thank You

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