



STANDARDS FOR CONCLUSIONS

1 Individualization (Identification)

The standard for individualization is agreement of sufficient friction ridge details in sequence.

1.1 Conditions that shall be satisfied:

- 1.1.1 Determined by a competent examiner [1], and
- 1.1.2 Applied to a common area in both impressions, and
- 1.1.3 Based on quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and
- 1.1.4 Absent any discrepancy, and
- 1.1.5 Reproducible conclusion.

1.2 Basic principles

- 1.2.1 There is no scientific basis for requiring that a predetermined number of corresponding friction ridge details be present in two impressions in order to effect individualization [2].
- 1.2.2 Individualization is supported by the theories of biological uniqueness and permanence, probability modeling, and empirical data gained through more than one hundred years of operational experience.

2 Exclusion

The standard for exclusion is disagreement of friction ridge details.

2.1 Conditions that must be satisfied:

- 2.1.1 Determined by a competent examiner [1], and
- 2.1.2 Applied to all comparable anatomical areas, and
- 2.1.3 Presence of a discrepancy [2], and
- 2.1.4 Based on sufficient quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and

2.1.5 Reproducible conclusion.

2.2 Basic principles

2.2.1 The presence of one discrepancy is sufficient to exclude.

2.2.2 Distortion is not a discrepancy and is not a basis for exclusion [3].

2.2.3 Exclusion is supported by the theories of biological uniqueness and permanence, probability modeling, and empirical data gained through more than one hundred years of operational experience.

3 Inconclusive

The standard for an inconclusive finding is the absence of sufficient friction ridge details to effect a conclusion of individualization or exclusion.

3.1 Conditions that must be satisfied:

3.1.1 Determined by a competent examiner [1], and

3.1.2 Based on quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and

3.1.3 Insufficient agreement or disagreement in the friction ridge details, and

3.1.4 Reproducible conclusion.

4 References

1. SWGFAST, *Training to Competency for Latent Print Examiners*, 8/22/02, ver. 2.1.
2. SWGFAST definition for "discrepancy", *Glossary*, 9/9/03, ver.1.0.
3. SWGFAST definition for "distortion", *Glossary*, 9/9/03, ver.1.0.