



**Document #102**

**Recommendations for Competency Testing  
of Noncertified Latent Print Examiners  
(Latent)  
Position Statement**

The SWGFAST document “Standards for minimum qualifications and training to competency for friction ridge examiner trainees” delineates the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be considered trained to competency. SWGFAST recognizes the need for a standard test available to the general latent print community that accurately assesses the competency of individuals to perform latent print casework. This would be appropriate at the completion of a training program before conducting casework, for latent print examiners who have not yet had sufficient work experience for certification, or in other situations in which it would be appropriate to assess the competency of latent print examiners.

A proctored, validated, two-part test should be developed that will determine competency, based on the following:

- A demonstration of knowledge in the form of a written test. The written portion of the test should conform to the required objectives in the SWGFAST document “Standards for minimum qualifications and training to competency for friction ridge examiner trainees”.
- A demonstration of skills in the form of a comparison test consisting of individualizations and exclusions of latent print impressions. The comparison portion of the test should conform to the guidelines of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors / Laboratory Accreditation Board for proficiency testing.

Friction ridge examiners are encouraged to aspire toward a professional certification program.

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