



GUIDELINES FOR THE STANDARDIZATION OF COMPARISON DOCUMENTATION

1.0 Objective

The purpose of this document is to set forth a scientifically acceptable standard for documenting, in a case record, the observations that support the reported conclusion.

2.0 Procedures

- 2.1 The case record must contain documentation of observations that support a reported conclusion.
- 2.2 At a minimum, the documentation must include depictions or descriptions of the agreement or disagreement of individual and/or class characteristics to the extent that another qualified firearm and toolmark examiner, without the benefit of the evidence itself, can review the case record, understand what was compared, and evaluate why the examiner arrived at the reported conclusion.
- 2.3 The supporting documentation of one comparison may be used for additional evidence within a case, provided the agreement described or depicted is representative of the additional comparison(s).
- 2.4 It must be documented in the case record which items are being depicted and/or described.
- 2.5 Methods of documentation including imaging, narrative descriptions, sketches, diagrams, charts, worksheets, tabulation of consecutive matching striae (CMS), or a combination of the above methods may serve to satisfy the requirements of this standard. (NOTE: The above mentioned documentation methods are not sufficient for the determination or verification of a conclusion.)

3.0 References

1. AFTE Criteria for Identification (AFTE Journal Supplemental) Vol. 3, Issue 3, August 2005.
2. ASCLD/LAB-International© Supplemental Requirements for the Accreditation of Forensic Science Testing Laboratories; ISO17025 Program of Accreditation; 4.13.2.12; January 24, 2006.