
Technical Procedure for Gelatin Lifters

1.0 Purpose - This procedure describes how to use gelatin lifters and apply them to items of evidence.

2.0 Scope - This procedure applies to items of evidence that are to be examined for the presence of latent impressions.

3.0 Definitions - N/A

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents

4.1 Equipment and Materials

- Black Magna powder or Black Regular powder
- Magna wand or latent print brush
- Fingerprint roller
- Gelatin lifter (black, white, or transparent)
- Transparent protective cover

4.2 Reagents – N/A

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Remove the protective backing from the gelatin lifter to expose the gelatin side. With the gelatin side facing the impression, press one end of the lifter onto the impression. Slowly press the remainder of the lifter onto the impression in one continuous motion. Use a fingerprint roller to ensure that the gelatin is pressed onto the impression.

5.2 Once the lifter is fully pressed onto the impression, lift one edge and remove in a slow, steady motion.

5.3 The protective cover shall then be placed back on the lifter in order to protect the lifted impression.

Note: All standards, lifts, photographs and casts created during the examination process shall be entered into FA as an item/sub-item of evidence.

5.4 Standards and Controls - N/A

5.5 Calibration - N/A

5.6 Sampling - N/A

5.7 Calculations - N/A

5.8 Uncertainty of Measurement - N/A

6.0 Limitations - N/A

7.0 Safety - N/A

8.0 References

Belcher, G.L. *Methods of Casting and Latent Print Recovery*. 14-15.

Bodziak, W.J. *Lifting a Footwear Impression from a Hard Surface*. FBI Laboratory (April 1984).

Bodziak, W.J. *Footwear Impression Evidence*. CRC Press, New York (1990).

Bodziak, W.J. *Footwear Impression Evidence*. 2nd Edition. CRC Press, New York (2000).

Bodziak, W.J. "Shoe and Tire Impression Evidence." *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*. (July 1984): 1-11.

Robbins, L.M. *Footprints: Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation*. Thomas Books, Illinois (1985).

9.0 Records - N/A

10.0 Attachments - N/A

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
09/17/2012	1	Original Document
10/31/2013	2	Added issuing authority to header
04/07/2017	3	Header Update – Removed Digital reference.