

# SWGFAST

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

# Mission - SWGFAST

- Establish consensus guidelines and standards for the forensic examination of fingerprints, palm prints and foot prints

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# Objectives

- Establish standards and guidelines for the development and enhancement of friction ridge examiners' knowledge, skills and abilities
- Establish standards and guidelines for quality assurance and quality control
- Discuss and share friction ridge examination methods and protocols
- Encourage and evaluate research and innovative technology related to friction ridge examination
- Cooperate with other national and international organizations in developing standards
- Disseminate SWGFAST studies, standards, guidelines and findings

# Documents

- Quality Assurance Guidelines for Latent Print Examiners
- Standard for Documentation of Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification
- Friction Ridge Examination Methodology for Latent Print Examiners
- Standards for Conclusions

# Documents

- Standards for Minimum Qualifications and Training to Competency for Friction Ridge Examiners (Latent/Tenprint)
- Standard for Friction Ridge Comparison Proficiency Testing Program (Latent/Tenprint)
- Standard for Simultaneous Impression Examination

# Documents

- Glossary
- Model Policy for Friction Ridge Examiner Conduct
- Validation of Research and Technology

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# Documents

- Standard for Friction Ridge Automation Training
- Standard for Friction Ridge Digital Imaging (Latent/Tenprint)

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# Documents

- Recommendations for Research
- Recommendations for Competency Testing of Noncertified Latent Print Examiners
- 2009 NAS Report - Position Statement



# Draft for Comment

- Standard Terminology of Friction Ridge Examination
  - Specific for field
  - Core to the field
  - Terms more appropriately defined in other sources removed

# Draft for Comment

- Standard for the Validation and Performance Review of Friction Ridge Impression Development and Examination Techniques (Validation of Research and Technology)
  - All novel, modified, or newly implemented techniques

# Current Work

- Five year document review
  - Methodology
  - Standards for Conclusions

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# Current Work

- Standard for Practical Comparison Exercises for Latent Print Trainees
  - Selection, (ground truth) preparation and presentation of training image
  - Appropriate venue for creating (Nist , IAI)
  - Competency testing - practical and academic
  - Qualifications and role of trainer
  - Time to complete program

# Focus Evolution

- Publishing standards rather than guidelines
- Primary focus on the science rather than the practitioner or agency
- Expanded membership diversity

# Recent Changes

- Posting process
- Document dates
- Archived documents
- Community resource page
- On-line forum
  - Member discussion
  - Voting (limited)
  - Community comment

# Considerations

- Reporting of results
  - Exclusion – Inconclusive – No Identification
- Technical review
  - Definition and Procedure
- Blind Verification
- Competency test - credentialing





# Attitude and Understanding

- Agency Administration
- Laboratory Management
- Unit Supervision
- Analyst

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