Yes, No, Maybe So - TRACE EVIDENCE CONCLUSIONS

Under ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E) Section 5.10 Reporting the results – 5.10.1 states that “The results of each test, calibration, or series of tests or calibrations carried out by the laboratory shall be reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously and objectively, and in accordance with any specific instructions in the test or calibration methods.”

In the absence of statistics, a scale allows for conclusions that express the level of certainty.**

**HOWEVER**

Multiple Conclusion Scales = CONFUSION

Section 16

Of Best Practice for Forensic Photographic Comparison

Levels of Evidence - Another example of a scale is the degree of confidence in the results of a forensic examination. The scale ranges from 1 (definitely not) to 10 (definitely yes).

1. Definitely not
2. Possibly not
3. Very possibly not
4. Almost certainly not
5. Certainty
6. Most probably
7. Probably
8. Very probably
9. Almost certainly
10. Definitely

In cases where a scale is used, a note indicating the level of confidence in the results of a forensic examination is required. This note should be included in the report and should be signed by the examiner.

Appendix 1

AFTE Glossary - Range of Conclusions Possible When Comparing Toolmarks

1. IDENTIFICATION - Agreement of a combination of individual characteristics and all discernible class characteristics when the likelihood of agreement exceeds the chance of error in the combination of all characteristics due to chance.
2. UNIDENTIFIED - Unavailable for microscopic examination.

Which Scale Best Allows Results to be Reported

“Accurately, Clearly, Unambiguously and Objectively?”

Working Group Marks

- **Identification**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**
- **Probable**

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