

Forensic Testing Program

Test No. 00-516: Latent Prints Examination

This test was sent to 351 participants. Each sample pack contained four sets of photographs of exemplar finger and palm imprints and photographs of ten latent prints. Participants were requested to compare the latent prints to the "knowns" and report their findings. Data were returned from 278 participants (79% response rate) and are compiled into the following tables:

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Manufacturer's Information

Each sample pack consisted of four photographed sets of known finger and palm imprints and photographs of ten latent prints. All of the latent prints were made by the individuals for whom linked imprints were provided. The latents were made by persons as follows:

<u>Latent No.</u>	<u>Identified to (Name):</u>	<u>Finger/Palm ID</u>
5A	Item 2 (Teresa Pantani)	LL
5B	Item 4 (James Boardman)	RP
5C	Item 1 (Martina Riis)	RI
5D	Item 4 (James Boardman)	LL
5E	Item 1 (Martina Riis)	RI
5F	Item 3 (Laura Ligget)	LI
5G	Item 2 (Teresa Pantani)	LI
5H	Item 1 (Martina Riis)	RI
5I	Item 1 (Martina Riis)	LP
5J	Item 1 (Martina Riis)	RM

Summary Comments

This test was designed to allow participants to assess their proficiency in the identification of latent finger and palm prints. Participants were provided with photographs of ten latent prints which they were to examine and compare with four sets of photographs of known finger and palm prints. Each of the latents was made by one of the four persons whose "known" prints appeared in Items 1 through 4.

N=276 Two hundred and fifty-three participants (91%) correctly identified all ten latents. Each latent was correctly identified by greater than 97% of reporting participants (refer to Table 1, page 11).

Thirteen erroneous identifications were reported by eleven participants. Eleven of these were of the correct individual but the wrong finger/palm. One participant identified latent 5B as RD instead of RP.

Sixteen laboratories did not identify a total of ~~twenty-two latents~~ "points" that must be demonstrated before an identification is made, variations in these numbers from one latent to another may account for some of the non-identifications.

A comment was made regarding the use of letters to denote fingers instead of numbers. As stated in the past, there are laboratories who participate in this test that are using or have used different numbering systems to identify specific fingers. The letter abbreviations for the fingers tend to be universally recognized.