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Scope of Work for a Footwear/Tire Examiner



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410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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Foreword

This technical report is based, in part, on the Scientific Working Group for Shoeprint and Tire Tread Evidence (SWGTTREAD) “Scope of Work Relating to Forensic Footwear and/or Tire Tread Examiners” published in March, 2005.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a technical report by the Footwear and Tire Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this technical report was developed by the Footwear and Tire Track Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science.

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Key Words: *footwear, footwear and tire examiner responsibilities.*

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Scope of Work for a Footwear/Tire Examiner

1 Scope

This technical report covers the primary responsibilities, types of examinations, and constituent duties of a footwear/tire examiner for lab management, quality assurance, law enforcement and the judiciary. By omission it describes the types of examination that should not be performed by someone in this role.

2 Normative References

The document contains no normative references. See Annex A, Bibliography for other references.

3 Terms and Definitions

Please refer to terms and definition included in ASB Technical Report 097, *Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear and Tire Evidence*, First Edition 2019¹.

4 Summary of Footwear or Tire Examination Practice

4.1 Forensic footwear or tire examiners undertake the following tasks: documenting, collecting and preserving footwear and tire evidence, and analyzing and comparing footwear or tire impressions.

4.2 Examiners' responsibilities include:

- determining the manufacturer, make, or model of the source of a questioned impression;
- comparing questioned impressions;
- determining the manufacturer, make, or model of an item of footwear or tire from an image or video;
- providing expert opinions regarding source conclusions;
- writing reports and providing testimony.

4.3 General duties in this field include:

- detecting footwear or tire impressions;
- preserving footwear or tire impressions;
- collecting and recovering footwear or tire evidence;
- documenting footwear or tire evidence;

¹http://www.asbstandardsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/097_TR_e1.pdf

- preparing test impressions, including elimination prints from footwear or tires;
- performing physical, chemical, photographic, and digital enhancement of footwear or tire impressions;
- recognizing and preserving other relevant physical evidence;
- analyzing, comparing and evaluating footwear or tire evidence;
- documenting examinations;
- preparing court exhibits;
- utilizing reference materials and databases;
- providing training and mentoring;
- utilizing technical equipment;
- performing technical review;
- providing verification of findings;
- performing quality assurance activities;
- performing research;
- staying current with relevant information, literature, and journals.

Annex A
(informative)

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SWGTREAD documents can be downloaded from:

<http://treadforensics.com/>

SWGTREAD, *Scope of Work Relating to Forensic Footwear and/or Tire Tread Examiners*, March 2015³.

²http://www.asbstandardsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/097_TR_e1.pdf

³https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/10/26/swgtread_06_scope_of_work_relating_to_forensic_footwear_andor_tire_tread_examiners_200503.pdf



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Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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