

**Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear
and Tire Evidence**

DRAFT



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Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear and Tire Evidence

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Foreword

This document is a compilation of terms commonly used in footwear and tire examination. It was compiled from texts and publications used as common references in the field of forensic footwear and tire examination. By using common terminology, the discipline will limit confusion and improve communication amongst examiners and when expressing findings to law enforcement, courts and juries.

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

Questions, comments, and suggestions for the improvement of this document can be sent to AAFS-ASB Secretariat, asb@aafs.org or 410 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

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Terminology Used for Forensic Footwear and Tire Evidence

1 Scope

This technical report is targeted for forensic science professionals actively engaged in the discipline of footwear and tire examination. It is not intended to define every term potentially applicable to forensic footwear and tire evidence, but define commonly used terms in the discipline.

2 Normative References

There are no normative reference documents, Annex A, Bibliography, contains informative references.

3 Terms and Definitions

3.1

abrasion

The result of the wearing away of rubber from tires by friction due to high speed, locked wheel braking.

NOTE Abrasion will be at right angles to the direction of travel, also on shoulder and sidewall.

3.2

adhesive lifter

Any material coated with a tacky substance for the purpose of lifting impressions.

3.3

air bubble

A globule of air trapped within a solid material such as a footwear outsole.

3.4

alternate light source (ALS)

Equipment used to produce light at various wavelengths to enhance or visualize potential items of evidence.

3.5

aspect ratio

The proportion of the tire's height to its width.

3.6

asymmetric tread design

A tire tread pattern divided circumferentially, such that one half of the tread design is not a mirror image of the other half.

3.7

bead

A hoop of steel wires within a tire that hold the tire on the rim.

- 35 **3.8**
 36 **bias tire**
 37 A tire that has plies which cross over one another at an angle.
- 38 **3.9**
 39 **bias-belted tire**
 40 A bias tire with added reinforced belts that lie beneath the tread.
- 41 **3.10**
 42 **BIO-FOAM^{®a}**
 43 A commercial product comprised of collapsible foam developed for the recording of footwear
 44 outsoles.
- 45 **3.11**
 46 **biscuit**
 47 Pre-formed or extruded pieces of soling compound that are placed in molds and pressed into the
 48 shape of a footwear outsole or heel.
- 49 **3.12**
 50 **blade**
 51 Thin pieces of metal in footwear and tire molds that result in molded sipes.
- 52 **3.13**
 53 **blocker**
 54 An oversized outsole made of one or more components that is later cut to size.
- 55 **3.14**
 56 **blunt force pattern injury**
 57 An injury to the skin caused by a blunt object resulting in the transference of the pattern design of
 58 the object due to subcutaneous hemorrhaging. (Also known as a **3.103 pattern contusion.**)
- 59 **3.15**
 60 **Brannock Device^{®b}**
 61 The standard tool for measuring the size of a human foot for the world's footwear industry
- 62 **3.16**
 63 **CAD/CAM**
 64 **Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing**
 65 Computer systems used to design and manufacture footwear and tires.

^a This term is used as an example only, and does not constitute an endorsement of this product by the AAFS Standards Board.

^b This term is used as an example only, and does not constitute an endorsement of this product by the AAFS Standards Board.

3.17

calendering

A process where raw rubber passes between a series of large steel rollers.

NOTE The final roller impresses the outsole design into the rubber that is later cut into soles. Rollers are also used to help prepare raw rubber for the production of rubber biscuits for the compression molding process.

3.18

carcass

The portion of the tire that includes the liner, plies, belts, and beads which forms the foundation for the tread and sidewall.

3.19

cast

A method of preserving and recovering three-dimensional impressions utilizing a casting material that replicates the impression's features.

3.20

casting material

Dental stone, snow print powder, sulfur, or other suitable materials specifically used to accurately recover three-dimensional impressions.

NOTE Some casting materials are also successful for lifting two-dimensional impressions.

3.21

center rib

A row of continuous rubber or disconnected tire tread blocks around the circumference of a tire that is evenly centered within the tire tread design.

3.22

chart board

A solid laminated board with a covering of white paper on at least one side (not foam core board) used to provide a firm and smooth backing when obtaining known tire impressions.

3.23

chemical etching

A process wherein a textured pattern is applied to selective areas of a mold surface.

NOTE The mold is later dipped in an acid bath that etches the pattern into the mold. The details within a chemically etched pattern are specific to an original mold.

3.24

class characteristic

A feature shared by two or more items of footwear or tires. The footwear outsole or tire tread design and the physical size features of a footwear outsole or tire tread are two common manufactured class characteristics. General wear of the outsole or tire tread is also a class characteristic. Class characteristics establish membership within a specific group.

- 103 **3.25**
 104 **clicker**
 105 A hydraulic machine that forces a steel die through outsole and/or midsole materials in a cookie-
 106 cutter fashion.
- 107 **3.26**
 108 **coaxial light**
 109 Illumination from the precise direction of the imaging lens (e.g., either through the lens or with a
 110 beam-splitter in front of the lens).
- 111 **3.27**
 112 **compression molding**
 113 A method for making footwear outsoles and tires where the material is placed into an open mold,
 114 which is then closed and subjected to heat, time, and pressure.
- 115 **3.28**
 116 **cord**
 117 Fabrics placed under tension and covered with rubber. Used to form the plies of the tire.
- 118 **3.29**
 119 **correspondence**
 120 An interpretation that observed similarities between compared items (e.g., questioned impressions
 121 and known footwear or tires) are in agreement.
- 122 **3.30**
 123 **degree of wear**
 124 The extent to which the design of a footwear outsole or tire tread has been changed due to erosion.
- 125 **3.31**
 126 **dental stone**
 127 A generic gypsum product generally having a strength rating of 8,000 psi or higher, commonly used
 128 to cast footwear and tire impressions.
- 129 **3.32**
 130 **design**
 131 The manufactured pattern of a footwear outsole or tire tread. Design is a class characteristic.
- 132 **3.33**
 133 **design/size relationship**
 134 The tendency for a footwear outsole or tire tread design to have either more design elements, or
 135 larger design elements, or both, as the footwear or tire size increases throughout the size range
 136 produced.
- 137 **3.34**
 138 **die cut**
 139 Outsoles or other footwear components produced by forcing a sharpened steel die through pre-
 140 formed outsole material with the assistance of a clicker machine.

141	3.35
142	direct attach
143	A manufacturing process where the upper of the footwear is joined to the midsole or outsole
144	material.
145	3.36
146	directional tread design
147	A tire tread pattern that is designed or intended to rotate in one direction only.
148	3.37
149	dissimilarity
150	An observation that characteristics have the appearance of being potentially different but do not
151	meet the criteria for an exclusionary difference.
152	NOTE This observation could be caused by numerous factors including but not limited to the impression-
153	making process, factors prior to recovery, and/or the recovery process.
154	3.38
155	distinguishing characteristic(s)
156	Feature(s) on a footwear or tire, including manufacturing variables/defects and characteristics of
157	use, that may be used to differentiate the item from others of the same class.
158	3.39
159	distortion
160	An unclear or inaccurate representation of the footwear or tire in an impression due to interference
161	in the impression-making process or its subsequent retrieval.
162	3.40
163	DOT number
164	Department of Transportation serial number assigned to every tire sold in the United States which
165	gives information regarding the manufacturer, size, and date of manufacture of the tire.
166	3.41
167	dry casting
168	A method utilizing the layering of dry dental stone powder and misted water.
169	3.42
170	dry origin impression
171	An impression formed when the substrate, materials being transferred, and the footwear outsole or
172	tire tread are dry (e.g., footwear impressions in dust).
173	3.43
174	dual tire assembly
175	A pair of tires mounted side-by-side on a fixed wheel assembly.
176	3.44
177	electrical discharge machine
178	EDM
179	A machine which uses electrical discharges to produce a desired design in a footwear or tire mold.

- 180 **3.45**
 181 **electrostatic detection apparatus**
 182 **ESDA^c**
 183 **electrostatic detection device**
 184 An instrument used to visualize paper fiber disturbances (e.g., indentations, erasures, typewritten
 185 material/lift off, footwear and tire impressions).
- 186 **3.46**
 187 **electrostatic lifting**
 188 The process of using an electrostatic charge to transfer dry origin impressions from the substrate to
 189 a film.
- 190 **3.47**
 191 **element**
 192 A single geometric component of a footwear outsole or tire tread design.
- 193 **3.48**
 194 **elimination impressions, photographs, and/or items**
 195 Footwear or tires, or recordings of footwear outsoles or tire treads, from known sources for the
 196 purpose of comparing to the questioned impressions.
- 197 **3.49**
 198 **enhancement**
 199 Improving the visibility of an impression through physical, photographic, digital, optical, or
 200 chemical means.
- 201 **3.50**
 202 **ethylene vinyl acetate**
 203 **EVA**
 204 A soling compound often produced in an expanded form.
- 205 **3.51**
 206 **examination quality photograph**
 207 A photograph that is scalable and captures a sufficient level of detail for conducting a forensic
 208 footwear or tire examination.
- 209 **3.52**
 210 **exclusion**
 211 The known footwear or tire exhibits differences in class characteristics or distinguishing
 212 characteristics that indicate the footwear or tire did not make the questioned impression and thus
 213 is not part of the pool of potential sources for the questioned impression.

^c This term is used as an example only, and does not constitute an endorsement of this product by the AAFS Standards Board.

- 214 **3.53**
 215 **exclusionary difference**
 216 A difference in one or more characteristics between compared items that is sufficient to determine
 217 that the compared items did not originate from the same source, are not the same source, or do not
 218 share the same composition or classification.
- 219 NOTE What is sufficient depends on the performance and limitations of the method used on the material in
 220 question.
- 221 **3.54**
 222 **exemplar**
 223 See **3.158 test impression**.
- 224 **3.55**
 225 **feathering (tires)**
 226 Wear pattern where tire tread ribs are worn lower/smooth on one side and higher/sharper on
 227 the other side.
- 228 **3.56**
 229 **fixative**
 230 A process or reagent that helps secure the blood to the substrate or secures the substrate itself (e.g.,
 231 snow, sand, etc.) so that it is not destroyed or degraded during chemical enhancement.
- 232 **3.57**
 233 **flash**
 234 **flashing**
 235 Excess material from the molding process.
- 236 **3.58**
 237 **footwear**
 238 Any apparel worn on the foot, such as shoes, boots, sandals, etc.
- 239 **3.59**
 240 **forensic light source**
 241 A light source that may be fixed or tunable to a variety of spectral ranges.
- 242 **3.60**
 243 **foxing**
 244 **foxing strip**
 245 A strip of rubber wrapped around the lower part of some footwear to cover the gap or seam
 246 between the upper and the outsole.
- 247 **3.61**
 248 **full impression**
 249 An impression that represents all, or nearly all, of the heel to toe portions of the outsole or the full
 250 width and circumference of the tire.
- 251 **3.62**
 252 **gelatin lifter**
 253 A commercial product with gelatin applied to a pliable backing used to lift impressions.

254	3.63
255	general outsole design
256	A general category of footwear outsole patterns (e.g., herringbone pattern, lugged outsole pattern,
257	wave pattern, and plain soles).
258	3.64
259	general wear
260	The condition (degree and position of wear) of the overall footwear outsole or tire tread, ranging
261	from new to extremely worn, related to its degree of use. General wear is a class characteristic that
262	may be used to include or exclude footwear or tires.
263	3.65
264	grooves
265	The space or channels that separate the tire tread ribs and elements. Circumferential grooves run
266	around the circumference of the tire. Transverse or lateral grooves, also known as slots, run across
267	the tire tread design.
268	3.66
269	holes
270	The removal of the outer layers of the outsole or tread materials, resulting in openings/gaps with
271	irregular edges.
272	3.67
273	identification
274	The highest degree of association assigned to a questioned impression and known source based on
275	the agreement of class and randomly acquired characteristics when there is sufficient quality and
276	quantity of information.
277	3.68
278	impression
279	The product of direct or indirect physical contact between a footwear or tire and the substrate
280	resulting in the transfer and retention of characteristics of that item.
281	3.69
282	injection molding
283	A manufacturing method where the outsole and/or midsole is made by forcing material into a
284	closed mold.
285	NOTE Outsoles can be molded individually as unit soles or directly onto the footwear upper as direct attach
286	outsoles.
287	3.70
288	inkless method
289	A process recording footwear/tiretrack impressions on white chemically treated paper
290	3.71
291	insole
292	A cushioned liner that occupies the inner surface of an item of footwear where the foot rests and is
293	placed there for comfort or protection. The insole may or may not be removable.

294	3.72
295	known impression
296	See 3.158 test impression .
297	3.73
298	known footwear or tire
299	A footwear or a tire of known origin that is compared to a questioned footwear or tire impression.
300	3.74
301	label (manufacturer's sizing label)
302	A label placed on the tongue or other inside surface of the footwear that contains information
303	including but not limited to the manufacturer's name, shoe size, country of manufacturer, style
304	number, dating information, barcodes, etc.
305	3.75
306	latent impression
307	An impression not readily visible to the naked eye.
308	3.76
309	last
310	A form made of wood, metal, or synthetic material that approximates the size and shape of a foot.
311	NOTE The upper of the footwear is stretched over the last and held in a specific shape and size throughout
312	the manufacturing process. The size on the manufacturer's label is directly related to the size of the last.
313	3.77
314	lift
315	An adhesive or other medium used to capture and preserve an impression.
316	3.78
317	liner
318	A thin layer of butyl rubber compound that holds the air inside the tire.
319	3.79
320	logo
321	A name, design, or pattern that is the trademark of the manufacturer that may appear on the
322	footwear.
323	3.80
324	low profile
325	A term describing a tire that has a low aspect ratio, thus a short sidewall.
326	3.81
327	manufacturing defect
328	Unintended damage, defects or flaws in the footwear outsole or tire tread that occurs during
329	manufacturing.

- 330 **3.82**
 331 **manufacturing variable**
 332 Features that occur during the manufacturing process that do not appear on all of the
 333 footwear/tires but may appear on more than one.
- 334 NOTE Examples would be the precise positioning of foxing strips, the precise cutting of die cut or Wellman
 335 cut soles, the positioning of stitching that is added to the bottom of some soles, or a bent sipe blade in a tire
 336 mold, etc.
- 337 **3.83**
 338 **Mikrosil™^d**
 339 Silicone casting material used to lift footwear impressions that have been treated with fingerprint
 340 powder.
- 341 **3.84**
 342 **midsole**
 343 A component positioned between the upper and the outsole on some footwear to provide
 344 cushioning and support.
- 345 **3.85**
 346 **mold**
 347 A metal cavity containing a footwear outsole or tire tread design used to produce footwear or tires.
- 348 **3.86**
 349 **mold characteristic**
 350 Those design and size features of a particular mold.
- 351 **3.87**
 352 **mold cure**
 353 Term used by tire manufacturers to describe the vulcanization of a tire in the molding process.
- 354 **3.88**
 355 **mold parting line**
 356 The dividing line between two halves of a shell mold, or between the segments of a segmented
 357 mold.
- 358 **3.89**
 359 **natural crepe rubber**
 360 A crude form of coagulated natural rubber having a crinkled or knobby texture.
- 361 **3.90**
 362 **natural rubber**
 363 A natural product derived from latex tapped from rubber trees.

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364	3.91
365	negative impression
366	An impression that has resulted from the removal of a substance from a substrate by a footwear
367	outsole or tire tread.
368	3.92
369	noise treatment
370	The mixed arrangement of tread block sizes used by the tire industry to reduce noise generated by
371	tires.
372	3.93
373	notches
374	Small void areas that extend off of grooves or slots of a tire design but don't fully cross the rib or
375	tread block.
376	3.94
377	not suitable for comparison
378	A judgment that a more detailed examination is not warranted. The examiner determined there
379	were minimal or no confirmable or discernable features present. This determination applies when
380	there is insufficient detail to conduct any comparison.
381	3.95
382	oblique lighting
383	Illumination from a light source that is at a low angle of incidence, or even parallel, to the surface of
384	the item (also known as side lighting).
385	3.96
386	offset
387	The distance from the wheel's centerline to the wheel's mounting surface.
388	NOTE Offset is measured as positive or negative.
389	3.97
390	open pour molding
391	The manufacturing process for the outsoles in which the polyurethane (PU) is poured directly into
392	the mold cavity (see 3.35 direct attach).
393	NOTE Single unit soles are made by pouring the PU into the mold and allowing the outsole to harden. Direct
394	attached soles can be made utilizing this process.
395	3.98
396	outsole
397	The bottom portion of the footwear that comes into contact with the substrate.
398	3.99
399	outsole design
400	A specific pattern or arrangement of elements on an outsole typically associated with a
401	manufacturer and having a name and/or style number.

- 402 **3.100**
 403 **partial or fragmented impression**
 404 An impression that does not represent the entire footwear outsole or tire tread.
- 405 **3.101**
 406 **patent impression**
 407 An impression visible to the naked eye.
- 408 **3.102**
 409 **pattern**
 410 See **3.32 design**.
- 411 **3.103**
 412 **pattern contusion**
 413 See **3.14 blunt force pattern injury**.
- 414 **3.104**
 415 **physical size**
 416 The dimensions, shapes, spacing and relative positions of the footwear outsole design components
 417 and tire tread blocks (not the same as the manufacturer's footwear or tire size). Physical size is a
 418 class characteristic.
- 419 **3.105**
 420 **pitch length**
 421 The circumferential length allotted for a single tire tread element, as designated on the blue print
 422 drawing for each tire design and size.
- 423 **3.106**
 424 **pitch sequence**
 425 The full arrangement of pitch lengths around the full circumference of a tire, specific to a certain
 426 design and size.
- 427 **3.107**
 428 **plane polarized light**
 429 Illumination consisting of light rays with a single vibration direction.
- 430 **3.108**
 431 **ply**
 432 Rubber-coated parallel cord fabric placed over the liner forming the tire carcass.
- 433 **3.109**
 434 **pneumatic tire**
 435 A tire filled with air under pressure.
- 436 **3.110**
 437 **polyurethane**
 438 **PU**
 439 A polyester or polyether-based polymer used in both the outsoles and midsoles of footwear.

- 440 **3.111**
 441 **polyvinyl siloxane**
 442 l casting material formulated to render fine detail.
- 443 **3.112**
 444 **polyvinyl chloride**
 445 **PVC**
 446 A thermoplastic polymer used in footwear outsoles.
- 447 **3.113**
 448 **position and orientation of wear**
 449 The location and direction of an area of erosion on a footwear outsole or tire tread.
- 450 NOTE Examples of location of wear include wear along the medial edge of the footwear outsole and wear
 451 along the outer edge of a tire tread. The position and orientation of wear can change as a footwear outsole or
 452 tire tread is worn.
- 453 **3.114**
 454 **positive impression**
 455 See **3.165 transfer impression**.
- 456 **3.115**
 457 **pressed outsole**
 458 An outsole made in the compression mold.
- 459 **3.116**
 460 **printer's ink**
 461 A highly toned oil-based ink.
- 462 NOTE Printer's inks that set up in two to four hours are often used in the production of full circumference
 463 known tire impressions.
- 464 **3.117**
 465 **proficiency test**
 466 An exam that tests a person's and/or an organization's ability to meet a certain level of skill in a
 467 particular activity, field of study, etc.
- 468 **3.118**
 469 **questioned**
 470 An item of unknown source (impression or otherwise).
- 471 **3.119**
 472 **radial ply tire**
 473 A tire whose plies run from bead to bead at right angles to the centerline of the tread.
- 474 **3.120**
 475 **randomly acquired characteristic**
 476 A feature on a footwear outsole or tire tread resulting from interaction with an object(s) including,
 477 but not limited to: cuts, scratches, tears, holes, stone holds, abrasions, the acquisition of debris, and
 478 burn marks.

- 479 **3.121**
 480 **release agent**
 481 Any product that prevents substrate material from adhering to the cast.
- 482 **3.122**
 483 **residue impression**
 484 An impression formed by the deposition of a substance from the footwear or tire onto another
 485 surface.
- 486 **3.123**
 487 **retreaded tire**
 488 A used tire to which a new tread has been added.
- 489 **3.124**
 490 **rib**
 491 Row of continuous rubber or disconnected tire tread blocks that run circumferentially around a tire
 492 to form the tread pattern, further distinguished as center, intermediate, or shoulder ribs.
- 493 **3.125**
 494 **rim diameter**
 495 The diameter of the rim that supports the tire bead and is expressed in inches, such as 13", 16",
 496 16.5" etc.
- 497 **3.126**
 498 **Ritz Stick^{®e}**
 499 A commercial device for measuring foot length and width.
- 500 **3.127**
 501 **roller transport film**
 502 A seven-mil Estar film base material designed to wet rollers and pick up loose particles on all types
 503 of roller transport photo-processing machines used along with fingerprint powder to produce
 504 known impressions of footwear and tires.
- 505 **3.128**
 506 **rolling circumference**
 507 The linear distance traveled by a tire in one revolution under load.
- 508 **3.129**
 509 **Schallamach pattern**
 510 Patterns that develop as ridges on rubber material as a result of repeated abrasive forces. These
 511 patterns are randomly acquired and continue to change due to continued abrasion.
- 512 **3.130**
 513 **section height**
 514 The distance from the rim to the tread surface of an unloaded tire.

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- 515 **3.131**
 516 **section width**
 517 The distance between the sidewalls of an inflated tire, exclusive of any lettering or designs. Not to
 518 be confused with tread width.
- 519 **3.132**
 520 **segmented tire mold**
 521 A mold consisting of several segments that open and close around the tire.
- 522 NOTE The sidewall plates are mounted separately.
- 523 **3.133**
 524 **shell tire mold**
 525 Also known as a two-piece mold, it consists of a top and bottom, each containing a sidewall ring and
 526 half of the full-circle tread design.
- 527 **3.134**
 528 **shoe perimeter**
 529 The outer border or edge of the footwear outsole that defines its overall physical size and shape.
- 530 NOTE Some perimeters may be comprised of a border such as a molded border or a foxing strip.
- 531 **3.135**
 532 **shoe size**
 533 The size a manufacturer designates for an item of footwear and places on a label in the footwear
 534 and/or footwear outsole, and shoe box.
- 535 NOTE There is not a strict dimensional relationship between a manufacturer's shoe size and the length and
 536 width of the outsole.
- 537 **3.136**
 538 **shoe size grading**
 539 The gradual increase or decrease in physical size and content that a manufacturer uses for each half
 540 size.
- 541 NOTE In general, each half size will result in an approximate measurement change of 4.2 mm in length of the
 542 outsole.
- 543 **3.137**
 544 **shoulder**
 545 The portion of the tire where the sidewall and tread meet.
- 546 **3.138**
 547 **side-by-side**
 548 A comparison method performed by placing objects next to one another.
- 549 **3.139**
 550 **sidewall**
 551 The portion of the tire between the shoulder and the bead that contains the tire information.

- 552 **3.140**
 553 **sipes**
 554 Thin slits in a footwear outsole or tire tread to create better traction. True sipes in footwear are
 555 those that are cut into an outsole during manufacture. True sipes in tire treads are cut in the tread
 556 only after market.
- 557 NOTE True sipes will open when flexed. Imitation sipes are molded and remain open.
- 558 **3.141**
 559 **slot**
 560 A lateral groove on a tire tread separating tread blocks.
- 561 **3.142**
 562 **snow print plaster**
 563 An accelerated plaster that is applied in a prescribed way and is capable of casting all forms of snow
 564 impressions.
- 565 **3.143**
 566 **Snow Print WaxTM /Snow Print Powder**
 567 **snow impression wax/powder**
 568 Aerosol waxes or powders used to coat the surface of snow impressions prior to casting.
- 569 **3.144**
 570 **specific location of wear**
 571 A defined area of erosion on a footwear outsole or tire tread.
- 572 NOTE Examples of a specific location of wear are a worn tire sipe or a small area of worn stippling on a
 573 footwear outsole. Specific locations of wear may allow for a greater level of discrimination or association
 574 between questioned impressions and known footwear or tires.
- 575 **3.145**
 576 **specific outsole design**
 577 The precise arrangement of design elements of part or all of a footwear outsole (see **3.33**
 578 **design/size relationship**).
- 579 NOTE The precise size/shape and arrangement of design elements in an outsole of one style and
 580 manufacturer's size are normally distinguishable from other sizes of the same manufacturer's style.
- 581 **3.146**
 582 **sprue**
 583 The piece of material that represents the passageway where the molding material was injected into
 584 the mold to form an outsole and remains attached to the outsole at that point.
- 585 NOTE The sprue is removed before sale.

^f This term is used as an example only, and does not constitute an endorsement of this product by the AAFS Standards Board.

- 586 **3.147**
587 **sprue mark**
588 A small circular mark typically left on the surface of the back of the heel of the outsole after the
589 sprue has been removed.
- 590 **3.148**
591 **standard**
592 See **test impression**.
- 593 **3.149**
594 **stippling**
595 A pattern hand struck onto the surface of a mold using a steel die containing a selected design.
- 596 NOTE The tip of the die is small and requires numerous, often overlapping, strikes. These multiple strikes
597 result in a fine pattern on the surface of the mold, and subsequent outsoles that come from that mold. Because
598 of the highly variable manner in which hand stippling is applied, it is specific to a given mold.
- 599 **3.150**
600 **stone hold**
601 A stone held in a recessed area of a footwear outsole or tire that may or may not be replicated in an
602 impression.
- 603 **3.151**
604 **suitable for comparison**
605 A judgment that a source opinion can potentially be reached. The examiner determined that the
606 item contains sufficient observed data (e.g., sufficient quality and quantity of features, size, or
607 condition of any evidence items) to be used for a comparison.
- 608 **3.152**
609 **sulfur**
610 A substance used for casting snow impressions.
- 611 **3.153**
612 **sulfur cement**
613 A reinforced modified sulfur material, available in flake form that is a safer, stronger alternative to
614 using pure sulfur in casting snow impressions.
- 615 **3.154**
616 **superimposition**
617 A visual comparison performed by placing one object over the other.
- 618 **3.155**
619 **synthetic rubber**
620 Any artificial elastomer that simulates the qualities of natural rubber.
- 621 **3.156**
622 **tandem**
623 Tires set immediately one behind the other.

- 624 **3.157**
 625 **tears**
 626 Fractures that have occurred in footwear outsoles or tire treads that reflect irregular edges (
- 627 **3.158**
 628 **test impression**
 629 An impression made from a footwear or tire used as an aid for comparison purposes.
- 630 **3.159**
 631 **texture**
 632 A rough surface or shallow design added to surfaces of a mold through the process of chemical
 633 etching or hand struck stippling that is transferred to the footwear during the molding process.
- 634 NOTE Texture is unique to specific molds.
- 635 **3.160**
 636 **three-dimensional impression**
 637 An impression made on substrates such as soil, sand, snow or mud with dimensions of length,
 638 width, and depth.
- 639 **3.161**
 640 **tire footprint**
 641 The contact area of a tire tread against a flat surface when under load, also known as a contact
 642 patch.
- 643 **3.162**
 644 **tire profile**
 645 See **3.5 aspect ratio**.
- 646 **3.163**
 647 **toe bumper guard**
 648 A thick strip of rubber that, in some footwear designs, is placed around the front perimeter of the
 649 footwear surrounding the toe area.
- 650 **3.164**
 651 **track width**
 652 The distance between the center points of the tires from one side of the vehicle to the other (e.g.,
 653 from the center point of the right front tire to the center point of the left front tire).
- 654 NOTE On a dual axle vehicle, this is the distance from the center points between the dual tires from one side
 655 of the vehicle to the other.
- 656 **3.165**
 657 **transfer impression**
 658 An impression made on a two-dimensional surface by a footwear or tire as a result of coming in
 659 contact with and acquiring dust, residue, blood, mud, or other materials that the footwear or tire
 660 subsequently deposits or transfers to a substrate in the form of an impression.
- 661 **3.166**
 662 **tread**
 663 The designed part of the tire that comes into contact with the road.

664	3.167
665	tread block
666	A single geometric component of a tire tread design.
667	3.168
668	tread depth
669	A vertical measurement between the top of the tread to the bottom of the tire's deepest groove,
670	measured in 32 ^{nds} of an inch.
671	3.169
672	tread depth gauge
673	A device used to measure the depth of the tire tread.
674	3.170
675	tread design
676	A specific pattern or arrangement of design elements on a tire tread typically associated with a
677	manufacturer and having a name and/or style number (also used to describe footwear outsoles).
678	3.171
679	tread wear indicator
680	Bands of raised rubber, sometimes called “wear bars”, that are ² / ₃₂ of an inch above the bottom of
681	the main grooves of a tire.
682	3.172
683	tread width
684	The width of the tire tread from one edge to the other in an impression. Not to be confused with
685	section width.
686	3.173
687	turning diameter
688	The diameter of the smallest circle produced during a vehicle’s tightest turn, as measured from the
689	outer edge of the outmost front tire in that turn.
690	3.174
691	two-dimensional impression
692	An impression with dimensions of length and width.
693	3.175
694	unit outsole
695	An individual heel or outsole that must be glued and/or stitched to the upper.
696	3.176
697	upper
698	The top portion of the footwear excluding the outsole or midsole.
699	3.177
700	variations
701	Imprecise duplication and deviations among repetitions of the same process.

- 702 **3.178**
 703 **vent**
 704 A drilled hole or gap between tire mold components allowing for the release of air during mold
 705 cure.
- 706 **3.179**
 707 **vulcanization**
 708 A process in which a rubber compound is heated under pressure causing a chemical change which
 709 transforms the rubber from a soft, tacky substance to tough, hard rubber.
- 710 **3.180**
 711 **wear**
 712 Erosion of the surfaces of a footwear outsole or tire tread during use.
- 713 **3.181**
 714 **Wellman outsole cutting machine**
 715 A machine used to cut outsoles from unvulcanized calendered outsole material.
- 716 **3.182**
 717 **wet media film**
 718 A clear drafting film, preferably with a minimum thickness of 4 mils, capable of accepting ink, which
 719 is used to obtain inked impressions of tires.
- 720 **3.183**
 721 **wet origin impression**
 722 An impression formed under wet conditions including impressions consisting of residues of blood,
 723 grease, mud and other wet substances.
- 724 **3.184**
 725 **wheelbase**
 726 The distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle.
- 727 NOTE An approximation of this dimension can be obtained by measuring the distance from the leading edge
 728 of the rear tire track to the leading edge of the front tire track on the same side of the vehicle.

Annex A (informative)

Bibliography

The following bibliography is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, review, or endorsement of literature on this topic. The goal of the bibliography is to provide examples of publications addressed in the standard.

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