



Questioned Documents Section – 2005

J9 Quality-Control Issues in the Production of Travel and Identity Documents: The “Grey Area” of Document Authentication

John J. Ross, MFS, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Forensic Document Laboratory, 8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325, McLean, VA 22102*

Attendees will gain a heightened awareness of quality-control issues and the importance of understanding and identifying these issues when authenticating travel and identity documents.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by heightening awareness of quality-control issues and the importance of understanding and identifying these issues when authenticating travel and identity documents will be addressed.

It has often been stated that the identification of handwriting is not always “black and white.” The subjective aspects of handwriting examination result in a “grey area” that is more difficult to discern. A similar grey area can be encountered when examining security documents such as travel and identity documents. This grey area includes quality-control issues in the production of security documents. Awareness of quality-control issues and the importance of understanding and identifying these issues when authenticating travel and identity documents will be addressed. Case studies involving quality-control problems will be examined and lessons learned will be discussed.

Quality-Control, Security Documents, Authentication