



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	<input type="text" value="2019-014"/>	Classification:	<input type="text" value="Corrective Action"/>
Non-Conformance Level:	<input type="text" value="Class II"/>	Section:	<input type="text" value="Crime Scene"/>
Date of Discovery:	<input type="text" value="02/08/19"/>	Date of Incident:	<input type="text" value="12/01/18"/>

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable: 2018-19491	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable: 146316318
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Description of Non-conformance:

During vehicle processing at the vehicle examination building (VEB), the crime scene investigator (CSI) identified a possible shoe imprint on the exterior of the front passenger door. The shoe imprint was photographed and included in the notes and report. However, comparison quality photographs were not captured as required by the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) standard operating procedure (SOP).

Actions Taken:

CSU management recognized the need for continued crime scene training for rarely used processing techniques and implemented an ongoing refresher training program. Comparison quality photographs are one of the techniques not often used at scenes, so management arranged two training sessions on this topic. The training sessions were conducted during the two-month time frame between when this nonconformance occurred and when it was discovered. The first training covered comparison quality photography for latent prints and the second covered the electrostatic dust print lifter (EDPL). The EDPL training included comparison quality photography of lifted shoe prints. The training sessions serve as a reminder to CSIs of the requirement and importance of documenting latent prints and shoe prints using comparison quality photography.

Summary of Root Cause Analysis:

Note: Incidents are documented for tracking purposes and trend analysis. Root Cause Analysis is not required for incidents.



This nonconformance appears to be a one-time occurrence but is significant because evidence on the vehicle was not documented using comparison quality photography in accordance with the SOP and the evidence can no longer be retrieved. This was not an intentional act. The CSI was aware of the SOP requirements but, after processing and collecting other evidence from the vehicle, she forgot to take the comparative photographs. This kind of photography is done after other processing is complete so that additional photography equipment needed to take the photographs is not set up and taken down more than once. A possible contributing factor is the infrequent need to take these photographs and the CSI did not have a standard workflow for completing the task.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

This nonconformance occurred December 1, 2018, but was not discovered until February 8, 2019, when the case file was reviewed by a CSU supervisor. Once vehicle processing at the VEB is complete, vehicles are usually released within forty-eight hours. The vehicle was no longer available for processing when the nonconformance was discovered. When interviewed, the CSI remembered the shoe print on the vehicle and stated that when she saw the shoe print she knew she needed to take comparison quality photographs as required by the SOP. However, she continued processing the vehicle with the intent of taking comparison quality photographs after completing her usual processing routine, but then forgot to do so. The CSI was unable to remember any other details surrounding the scene or that day which may have contributed to this nonconformance. After reviewing her case record, she stated that her notes indicated that she had found several unusual areas of interest on the vehicle. Specifically, she found possible blood in an unexpected area inside the vehicle. She believes she may have been so focused on testing and documenting the possible blood that she forgot to take the comparison quality photographs of the shoe print. Another contributing factor may be that shoe prints are rarely encountered on vehicles. Although the CSI remembered taking comparison quality photographs on at least one scene, she had never taken them at the VEB. The CSI was authorized to perform independent case work, including comparison quality photography, in July 2018.

Section Manager: Domingo Villarreal

Date: 04/04/19

Division Director: Jerry Pena

Date: 04/05/19

Incidents or Corrective Actions that involve the Biology/DNA section are reviewed by the Technical Leader and CODIS Administrator.

Technical Leader: N/A

Date: N/A

CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: N/A

Quality Director: Lori Wilson

Date Closed: 04/05/19