



**Quality Division Use Only**

Quality Tracking #:	2022-064	Classification:	Corrective Action
Non-Conformance Level:	Class I	Section:	Latent Print Section
Date of Discovery:	12/07/22	Date of Incident:	12/07/22

<b>Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:</b>	<b>Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:</b>
2022-06813	073819222

**Description of Non-conformance:**  
A Latent Print processor followed the incorrect sequential processing workflow while attempting to develop/enhance possible latent prints on an evidence substrate. The possible suitable latent (PSL) that was present under the alternate light source was no longer visible after the processor applied the incorrect reagent.

**Additional Information/Follow-Up:**  
The case contained two Styrofoam cups and a cigarette box. The processor began with a visual exam of the evidence, which is the first step in all processing sequences. The processor was able to visualize one possible suitable latent on one of the cups using an alternate light source. The processor photographed the PSL, per normal procedure. Next, the processor determined that the Styrofoam cups were a porous substrate and proceeded with the sequential processing for porous items which was to apply indanedione (IND). After the IND was applied, the processor realized that the PSL was no longer visible. It was at that time that he realized that the porous sequence was not the correct sequence to use on Styrofoam. He then contacted his colleagues for advice on how to proceed. They reminded him that the proper sequence for Styrofoam, after visual exam, is to cyanoacrylate ester fume and then to apply magnetic powder followed by rhodamine 6G, if necessary. The processor then proceeded with these techniques on the evidence but no PSLs were visible.



**Summary of Root Cause Analysis:**

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

At the time of the case, the processor had been authorized for less than two months for independent casework. The processor told the quality specialist that he did process Styrofoam during his training program, but mistakenly thought Styrofoam was a porous surface. The technical leader and the section manager told the quality specialist that Styrofoam is a surface that is specifically discussed during training due to its uncommon qualities. Latent print management does not have a concern with the processor's ability to perform casework and acknowledged that him being newly authorized to perform casework may have been a factor in his error.

**Actions Taken:**

The processor documented the series of events in his case notes and a comment was made on the latent print processing report referencing this quality report. While speaking with the quality specialist, the processor acknowledged his mistake and confirmed that in the future he knew the proper processing sequence to use for Styrofoam. Management reminded all processors in the section to utilize the internal messenger feature to communicate with each other to ask questions when help is needed. To ensure that the processor understands the correct processing sequence for Styrofoam, a blind quality control case was prepared using a Styrofoam cup. Prints were placed on the cup to mimic the evidence in this case. The blind case was assigned to this processor unbeknown to him. According to the case record, the processor used the correct sequence to process the Styrofoam in this blind quality control case and was able to develop friction ridge detail.

Section Manager: Rebecca Green Date: 01/31/23  
Division Director: Amy Castillo Date: 02/02/23

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

Technical Leader: Jeniffer Molina Date: 01/26/2023  
CODIS Administrator: N/A Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quality Director: Jackeline Moral Date Closed: 02/07/23