

FA SOP-IV-4 Fired Bullet - Examination and Classification

Document ID: 1164

Revision: 1

Effective Date: 8/15/2014

Status: Retired

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Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

A. Purpose:

1. To describe the physical examination process of bullet evidence. The initial examination of fired bullet evidence will be documented in the worksheet or notes. These worksheets or notes will include the physical description of the fired evidence and will serve as a source of documentation of the condition the evidence was received in, and the results of any tests or comparisons performed.

B. Responsibility:

1. The examiner is responsible for the full documentation of the bullet being examined, including the condition, the structure, and any observed abnormalities.
2. The examiner is responsible for recording, by written word, drawing, photo imaging, or all of the above, the observations made on the bullet being examined.

C. Safety:

1. The examiner will consider the use of gloves, and other types of personal protective devices, when examining bullets that have potentially come into contact with bio-hazardous materials.

D. Procedure:

1. A worksheet will be filled out appropriately. This may include noting the following:
 - a. The presence of trace material
 - b. The caliber
 - c. The bullet weight
 - i. Record bullet weight in grains
 - ii. Record slug weight in ounces
 - d. The number of lands and grooves
 - e. The direction of twist
 - f. The measured width of the land impressions
 - g. The measured width of the groove impressions

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- h. The composition of the bullet
- i. The bullet style
- j. The possible manufacturer/marketer of the bullet
- k. A description of the base of the bullet
- l. The type and position of cannelures
- m. Any extraneous markings, including:
 - i. Skid Marks
 - ii. Shave Marks
 - iii. Flared Base
 - iv. Other Marks
- n. The presence of gunpowder and/or powder imprints adhering to the base of the bullet
- o. The condition of the fired evidence as it was received
- p. The suitability of the fired evidence for comparison purposes

E. References:

- 1. AFTE procedures manual

F. Appendices:

- 1. Appendix 1 -- Worksheets