

## Guidelines for fingerprint transmission

This document has been prepared to assist member countries improve the quality and quantity of fingerprint records submitted to INTERPOL AFIS service for search and filing. The quantity and quality of information stored in the INTERPOL AFIS depends on its member countries, if they send low quality fingerprint requests then the searches will not be accurate and in some cases not possible and if small quantities are sent the searches could be negative due to a lack of information in the AFIS. **In resume increased quality and an increased data will result in more HITS.**

### **1. Transmission of NIST files for INTERPOL**

In 1997 INTERPOL created a standard based on ANSI-NIST for the electronic exchange of fingerprint files for AFIS; this standard was agreed by all member countries and is now accepted by the fingerprint world as the standard for fingerprint exchange. At the beginning of 2005 INTERPOL decided to make available for notices the fingerprints in the ANSI-NIST format, this means that all member countries connected to I-247 now have the possibility to download these files. These files can only be opened by using a NIST viewer, INTERPOL is currently making this available via the National Security officers in all member countries. The NCB is actively encouraged to forward these NIST files to their national AFIS services for search and filing.

In addition to supplying NIST records we now have the possibility to insert NIST files in our database and again we encourage countries to send us NIST files rather than JPEG if they are able to do so. The parameters for creating the NIST file required are available on the fingerprint web page of the INTERPOL web site. Prior to submitting NIST files for the first time we would be grateful if a test set could be forwarded for prior testing.

**In 2009 INTERPOL will make available to all member countries that require it, the software to enable NCB's to scan a paper fingerprint form or convert a JPG file into the ANSI-NIST format.**

### **2. What to send**

Interpol maintains a database of fingerprint files from member countries; currently this database contains 85,000 fingerprint forms. The information comes from all member countries and contains very interesting data which can be made available to other member countries respecting the Interpol rules on co-operation. **It is recommended that member countries forward to INTERPOL fingerprints of persons suspected or convicted of serious crimes who is not a national of the country in question.**

Currently the database is increasing by around 18,000 forms per year and over the last year we have seen a 50% increase in positive searches due to this increase in data.

### **3. Conclusion**

We hope this short paper will assist you in your daily duties and look forward to being able to assist you in this issue of improving the transmission of fingerprint files. If your fingerprint services need information regarding the exchange of NIST files then please ask them to contact the Fingerprint Unit at IPST. We look forward to receiving more good quality fingerprint forms and in return giving you more positive information concerning your fingerprint transmissions.

### **1. Contact**

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