

Guidelines concerning transmission of Fingerprint Crime Scene Marks

INTERPOL OS/FTD/IDFP



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SUBMISSION OF FINGERPRINT CRIME SCENE MARKS TO THE IPSTG FINGERPRINT UNIT

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

- ❖ This document has been prepared to assist member countries improve the quality and quantity of fingerprint crime scene marks submitted to INTERPOL AFIS service for search and storage.

REASONS FOR SENDING FINGERPRINTS TO INTERPOL

- ❖ The quantity and quality of information stored in the INTERPOL AFIS depends on its member countries.
- ❖ If low quality fingerprint requests are send then the searches will not be accurate and in some cases not possible and if small quantities are send the searches will often be negative due to a lack of information in the AFIS.
- ❖ **In resume increased quality and increased data will result in more HITS.**

TRANSMISSION OF FINGERPRINT CRIME SCENE MARKS

1. Fingerprint crime scene marks should have been searched in local databases, national databases and cross borders (where agreements have been made e.g. PRÜM, SCHENGEN).
2. Fingerprint crime scene marks will be accepted by IPSTG if the above has been adhered to and it is suspected that the crime has been committed by a foreign national.
3. IPSTG does not have set any limitations regarding the type of crime when receiving and processing the fingerprint crime scene marks.
4. The Fingerprint Unit at IPSTG has adopted a non-numeric standard; however marks can only be accepted if they disclose at least 6 minutiae, minimum required by the AFIS system.

5. Fingerprint crime scene marks can be sent electronically or in a paper copy.
6. IPSTG is unable to accept fingerprint crime scene marks sent by fax.
7. The source document must be either the original or a photographic reproduction with very good quality. It must not be enlarged or reduced.
8. In order to be able to provide correct insertion and comparison of fingerprint crime scene marks, few requirements have to be followed:
 - 8.1 Each fingerprint mark and photograph should be marked with a unique identifier
 - 8.2 Fingerprint marks should be sent in JPEG or NIST format
 - 8.3 Photographed in 1:1 ratio
 - 8.4 A hard copy digital image must be of a minimum of 500 dpi, 1000 dpi if possible.
 - 8.5 The image must be free from pixilation when observed using a standard fingerprint glass.
 - 8.6 A scale in inches or centimeters must be visible in the image and must be on the same plane of focus as the crime scene mark being photographed
 - 8.7 One entire unit must be visible within the image (e. g. 1 inch or 1 centimeter)
 - 8.8 Generally images will be grayscale at 8 bits, but colored images at minimum of 24 bits are acceptable.
 - 8.9 The un-retouched negatives must be retained.
 - 8.10 In case some improvements of image have been done, this information must appear in the message, e.g. inversion, mirror image, etc.
 - ❖ [See Appendix I.](#)
9. Please note, that fingerprint crime scene marks sent in JPEG format cannot be searched using INTERPOL AFIS Gateway, fastest way of fingerprint transmission and comparison in INTERPOL AFIS database.
10. Sending fingerprint crime scene marks in JPEG format has disadvantages when compared to NIST format:
 - comparison cannot be automated (via AFIS Gateway)
 - needs more manual work to be processed
 - is more time consuming
 - more problems with quality of the image

- high quality images (correct size and resolution) in JPEG format are often big files which makes it impossible for NCB to send more fingerprint images in one message.
- 11.** All fingerprint marks will be stored in the AFIS at IPSTG and will be searched against all old and new tenprints/latents received.
 - 12.** A record must be made at the place of origin to advise IPSTG if the marks are identified or the case is resolved.
 - 13.** If possible, the details of the case should be included together with where the marks were found, the medium used to lift/develop the fingerprint and if the impression is correct for color/direction.
 - 14.** Proper marking of the fingerprint crime scene marks is highly advised, so in case of a HIT in INTERPOL AFIS the correct information should be given to the requesting country.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ Following the rules stated in these guidelines will allow IPSTG Fingerprint Unit to process the crime scene marks in a proper manner and to increase the quality of services provided to Member Countries.
- ❖ IPSTG will not process fingerprint crime scene marks if they are not send following the above mentioned criteria.
- ❖ A quality message will be send to the requesting country indicating why IPSTG is unable to process the crime scene marks.

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 JPEG and NIST files then please ask them to contact the Fingerprint Unit at IPSTG.

We look forward to receiving more good quality fingerprint forms and in return giving you more positive information concerning your fingerprint transmissions.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

CONTACT

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Attachments: Appendix I.

Appendix I.

Proper marking and documentation of fingerprint crime scene marks is important as it is often a critical component in the admissibility of the evidence.

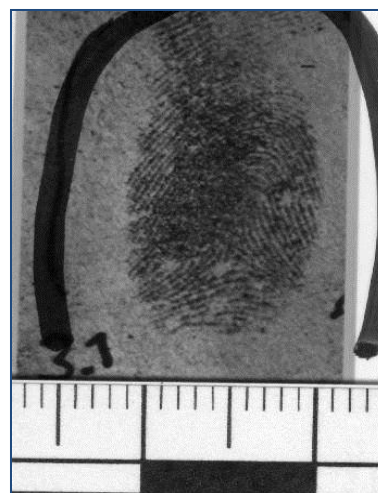
1. Wrongly marked fingerprint crime scene mark – scale missing - **WRONG**

Picture a)



2. Fingerprint crime scene mark with visible scale, not clear which system was used – e.g. inch / cm, visible marking of the fingerprint mark (Nr. 3.1) - **WRONG**

Picture b)



3. Fingerprint crime scene mark with visible scale in metric system, visible marking of the fingerprint mark (Nr. 1.4) - **CORRECT**

Picture c)

