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BCI Laboratory Footwear Database Searches

Ohio BCI participates in the footwear database system provided by Foster & Freeman. Database use is governed by the BCI Laboratory.

I. Database Entry Considerations

In order to consider a questioned impression from a crime scene for footwear database entry:

- The impression must be suitable for comparison purposes
- The impression has not been associated with any known source

Database entries include both known samples purchased from the manufacturer as well as entries from BCI.

II. Database Entry Notification Practices

BCI laboratory reports notify law enforcement agencies if questioned impressions were entered into the footwear database.

III. Database Search Scope and Frequency

Footwear database searches are conducted during the examination of evidence. Questioned impressions from violent crimes are automatically re-searched against new entries for three subsequent updates to the database. Subsequent searches from non-violent crimes may be conducted at the request of the investigating agency.

IV. Database Entry Retention

Questioned impression entries from crime scenes are retained in the database.