

## IB3: Counterfeit Documents

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The identification of the types of printing processes used to produce various documents is important in the examination and comparison of counterfeit, altered and original documents. For examination purposes it is important for the document examiner to have adequate genuine documents, examples of various printing processes and reference literature.

### II. INSTRUMENTATION

Magnification (i.e. Hand Magnifier and Stereo Microscope), adequate light source and alternate light sources (See Appendix VI).

### III. MINIMUM STANDARDS & CONTROLS

See Appendix I.

### IV. EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

A catalog of class characteristics can be produced until differences are discovered which establish counterfeit. Any or all of the common inspection techniques may be employed. Depending upon the significance of the matching characteristics, a lack of differences may or may not establish genuineness. Examiner experience and judgment must be employed.

- A. Have a genuine item of what is in question for comparison purposes. If a genuine is not available the document examiner must have an understanding of how a genuine is produced (i.e. printing processes and security features) to render a conclusion that an item in question is or is not genuine.
- B. Visually examine the questioned document using appropriate magnification and lighting to determine the printing processes used to produce the item. Also examine item for any additions or alterations that may have been made.
- C. Determine whether or not the printing processes used to produce the item in question are the same as those used to produce a genuine.
- D. Examine the item in question to determine whether or not it contains security features that are found in a genuine (i.e. microprinting, UV ink, security threads, etc...).
- E. If the questioned item was produced using the same security features and printing processes as a genuine item then examine the questioned item for quality and defects. Generally speaking, genuine items are usually of higher quality and contain less defects than counterfeit items.
- F. Render conclusions based on examinations conducted in report form. Conclusions for this type of examination are usually an identity of genuine or counterfeit. If the conclusion is that the questioned item is counterfeit then the method of production should also be included in the

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report. The only other opinion that can be rendered is that it could not be determined whether or not the item(s) are genuine/counterfeit. If this is the case than the reasons for the inconclusive opinion need to be expressed in the report.

### REFERENCES

1. ASTM E 1658-04, *Standard Guide for Expressing Conclusions for Forensic Document Examiners*
2. Hilton, O. *Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents*; Elsevier: New York, NY, 1982.
3. Kelly, J. S., Lindblom, B. S., *Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents*, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, FL, Chapter 23 and 24.
4. Osborn, Albert S. *Questioned Documents*; Patterson Smith: Montclair, NJ, 1978.
5. Pocket Pal, *A Graphic Arts Production Handbook*, International Paper, 16<sup>th</sup> Ed., 1995.
6. Questioned Document Section Article Library

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<u>History</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Section(s) Revised</u>
Original Issue	11/18/99	N/A
1 <sup>st</sup> Revision	4/15/11	II, IVF and References
2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision	6/2/11	Added Division to Header and Issuing Authority to Footer
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision	6/1/12	Removed Magnetic Ink Reader from Instrumentation

**Approval**

Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Matthew C. Mathis

**Issuance**

Criminalist \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Jeffrey S. Taylor