

## Scope of Work for a Footwear/Tire Examiner



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

This technical report outlines the responsibilities of footwear and/or tire forensic science practitioners (FSPs).

The types of examinations that should be performed by a footwear and tire FSP are delineated. The types of examinations that should not be performed by a footwear and tire FSP are implied through omission.

Procedures for accomplishing responsibilities are not included in this report.

### WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

The footwear and/or tire FSP focuses on detecting, documenting, recovering, examining, and comparing footwear and tire evidence.

By outlining specific responsibilities, this technical report provides consistency within forensic science service providers (FSSPs) and across FSSPs for footwear and/or tire FSPs. This is beneficial to lab management, quality assurance, law enforcement, and the judiciary.



### HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This technical report is intended to be used by management and quality assurance staff within an FSSP as well as by law enforcement and the judiciary external to the FSSP.

Footwear and tire FSP responsibilities include:

- Determining the manufacturer, make, or model of the source of a questioned impression
- Determining the manufacturer, make, or model of an item of footwear or tire from an image or video
- Comparing questioned impressions
- Providing opinions regarding the source of an impression
- Writing reports
- Providing testimony

To fulfill these responsibilities, a footwear and tire FSP documents, collects and preserves footwear and tire evidence, and analyzes and compares footwear and tire impressions.

These general tasks expand into more detailed duties that are listed in the technical report and include the recognition of other types of evidence; the use of physical, chemical, photographic and digital tools to enhance an impression for comparison; use of databases and technical equipment; participation in quality assurance activities; performing research; and staying current with relevant information, literature, and journals.