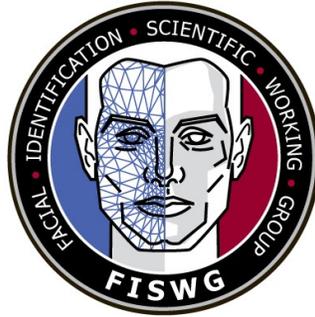


1



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29



Facial Image Comparison Best Practices for Markups and Annotations

24 1. Scope

25 1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide best practices and guidelines for
26 utilizing markups and annotations during a facial image comparison.

27 1.2. In the context of this document, a non-annotated image shall accompany the
28 image(s) containing markups and annotations to serve as a reference for the analysis
29 and comparison.

30 2. Referenced Documents

31 2.1. ASTM Standards¹

32 ASTM E3149 Facial Image Comparison Feature List for Morphological Analysis
33 Guideline

34 3. Terminology

35 3.1. Definitions:

36 3.1.1. Annotation: an explanation added to a diagram that details a particular

¹ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

37 anatomical feature used during the process of comparative analysis or references a
38 markup added to the facial images

39 3.1.2. Markup: an identifier (e.g., symbols, shapes) added to a diagram that
40 highlights a particular anatomical feature used during the process of comparative
41 analysis

42 3.1.3. Spatial relationship: specifies how a feature is positioned on the face relative
43 to another feature. When this term is used in this guide, it does not mean to imply that
44 the precise value of this dimension shall be determined, but rather the relative size of
45 this dimension compared to the overall width or height of the face, if not otherwise
46 specified.

47 **4. Best Practices for Markups and Annotations** – this section refers to the best
48 practices for documenting compared facial features during a facial image comparison.

49 4.1. The following types of markups and annotations should be utilized to clearly
50 indicate noteworthy facial features that were assessed and evaluated during the
51 analysis and comparison processes. Markups and annotations between the probe and
52 candidate should be clearly visible and maintain a consistent format. The type, color,
53 and number of markups used will be agency specific but should fall within the below
54 guidelines.

55 4.1.1. Circles or boxes – to outline specific features such as facial marks (e.g.,
56 scars, moles, etc.)

57 4.1.2. Hash marks or brackets – to illustrate relative distance (spatial relationship)
58 (e.g., intercanthal distance, size of the nose, etc.) or to highlight a grouping of features
59 (e.g., striae or facial marks, etc.)

60 4.1.3. Arrows, numbers, or dots – to indicate specific facial features

61 4.2. Examiners shall not utilize the following types of markups, as doing so would
62 introduce contextual bias or obstruction of facial features within the report.

63 4.2.1. Draw or trace on facial features

64 4.2.2. Apply text or text boxes over the head, face, or neck

65 4.2.3. Obstruct annotated facial features via markup

66 4.2.4. Clutter or overlap markups

67 **5. Best Practices for Anatomical Annotation** – this section refers to the best
68 practices for practitioners when annotating compared facial features. An anatomical
69 write-up must accompany a forensic facial comparison and should fall within the below
70 guidelines.

71 5.1. Practitioners shall use anatomically correct language per the ASTM E3149
72 Facial Image Comparison Feature List for Morphological Analysis Guideline.
73 Practitioners may use layman’s terms in addition to anatomically correct language.

74 5.1.1. Practitioners shall not use words such as unique, significant, same, identical,

75 or exact to describe a specific feature. This language would suggest that the features
76 are derived from the same source which is not scientifically or statistically supported.

77

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