



The International Association for Identification

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Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

SUBJECT: Request from the IAI to the DOJ for an update on Latent Interoperability Recommendations

Dear Madam Attorney General:

The International Association for Identification (IAI) is a professional membership organization comprised of individuals worldwide who work in the field of forensic identification. With over 7000 members from 77 countries, the IAI remains the oldest and largest forensic science/identification association in the world. For over 100 years, we have shared a mutual interest with the law enforcement community and courts regarding the effectiveness of fingerprints as a reliable and accurate identification tool.

The IAI has worked with federal, state and local governments to further the cause of justice. We are comprised of a diverse, knowledgeable and experienced membership assembled to educate, share, critique and publish methods, techniques and research in the physical forensic science disciplines. Members of the IAI have volunteer leadership positions on national advisory groups, such as the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). In addition to an annual Educational Conference, many Divisions (both national and international) have their own annual conferences.

The IAI provides Certification in the following disciplines:

- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
- Crime Scene (to include)
 - Crime Scene Investigator
 - Crime Scene Analyst
 - Senior Crime Scene Analyst
 - Crime Scene Reconstructionist
- Footwear Examination

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- Forensic Art
- Forensic Photography
- Forensic Video
- Latent Print Examination
- Tenprint Fingerprint Examination

In addition to our website (www.theiai.org), we inform our membership through the Journal of Forensic Identification, the Identification News, and other special publications. The IAI has long been a partner in advancing the science of identification through forensic and biometric applications.

During 2015, there were two important documents released which will have a profound effect on identification practices and technology. In April of that year, the Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Forensic Science of The National Science and Technology Council released *Achieving Interoperability for Latent Fingerprint Identification in the United States*.

The Subcommittee recommends:

- *The Federal Government should support training activities of Latent Interoperability Transmission Standards (LITS)-compliant systems through the following activities:*
 - *The National Institution of Standards and Technology (NIST) should develop support materials, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for examiners.*
 - *The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) should make funds available through current grant programs to support examiner training activities related to the implementation and use of standards-compliant systems.*
- *NIST should develop performance tests to assess the matching accuracy of natively versus remotely encoded prints and new research data sets to encourage independent testing.*
- *NIST and the FBI should develop and make available an automated tool to aggregate candidate lists from multiple searches in one or more systems that could lead to improvements in efficacy and accuracy.*
- *The Federal Government should help resource-constrained law enforcement agencies seeking to update their systems by expanding efforts to evaluate LITS and Electronic Biometric Transmission Standards (EBTS) implementation and translate technical specifications into practice.*

On August 11, 2015, the *National Commission on Forensic Science* voted unanimously to adopt a Policy Recommendation that:

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The US Attorney General should support, recommend and fund interoperability of Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) as a national effort to improve public safety.

The Commission further recommended that the US Attorney General:

- a. Require that any AFIS system that is acquired using federal funding meet interoperability standards, such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) - Information Technology Laboratory standard (ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 Update: 2013) using the Extended Feature Set (EFS), the Latent Interoperability Transmission Specification (LITS), and/or any interoperability standards developed in the future.*
- b. Make sufficient funds available to support procurement or upgrades of interoperable AFIS systems so that true interoperability can be achieved by October 1, 2020.*
- c. Recommend that future state and local AFIS systems consider, and Federal AFIS systems require, collection and reporting of data in a standard format (to be defined by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC))*

The IAI would like to report to our membership the status on implementing the recommendations in these two reports by the Attorney General. We can report your response through our professional publications, as well as at our Educational Conference August 7-13, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio. I appreciate your consideration on this matter and I look forward to your response ahead of our annual conference.

Very Respectfully,

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