



Tape lifted impression



Image taken at an angle



Image of partial impression in soil



The Microanalysis Section of the  
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Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau  
Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory

# **Shoeprint Image Capture and Retrieval Database**

## **SICAR**

**A resource to help you  
in your investigations.**



## What is SICAR and how can this help you?

SICAR is a footwear database that contains manufacturer information—including outsole patterns—to aid in identifying potential make and/or model of footwear impressions recovered from scenes of a crime.

Footwear impressions that are left at a scene may be challenging to collect or appear to have limited distinguishing information. As a result, limited emphasis gets placed in the collection, or submission, of this evidence. With the use of SICAR, images of footwear impressions, even if taken at an angle, with a point-and-shoot camera, or those with low resolution, can be used to provide investigative information. Even limited design elements, shapes, or logo portions can offer enough information to provide a possible shoe make and model.

### Additional Information

*There are no crime type restrictions for a SICAR search to be performed – images will be accepted for any crime.*

*To better assist our agencies, the WSP Crime Laboratory will allow agencies to submit images electronically.*

## What you will need to do to submit images electronically:

- \* Complete a Request for Lab Examination (RFLE) form:  
[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/crimelab/request\\_for\\_laboratory\\_examination.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/crimelab/request_for_laboratory_examination.pdf)
- \* Include any specific notes as to what images are to be evaluated or specific information that may be useful.
- \* Only images with impression information should be submitted. The file size for an image, or the total of multiple images, must not exceed 25 MBs.
- \* Submit the completed RFLE and images as attachments to:  
[shoesearch@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:shoesearch@wsp.wa.gov)
- \* If you have images that exceed 25 MBs or think that you need to submit numerous images, please contact us and we can discuss submission options.
- \* You can still submit your images over the evidence counter to get this service, but it will need to be in sealed packaging.

### Questions?

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[shoesearch@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:shoesearch@wsp.wa.gov)

## What we will do:

- \* We will copy the submitted images onto a CD/DVD to be used for our examination.
- \* We will evaluate the submitted images by inter-comparing multiple images and/or impressions and coding the impression information into the SICAR database for searching.
- \* We will issue a report whether we find a result or not. The report may contain make and model information along with an image of a possible outsole that may be a source of the questioned impression.
- \* It should be noted that since a SICAR search is for make and model information, the examination will not be looking for characteristics such as defects or wear as we would do in a footwear comparison.
- \* *If shoes are later found and a comparison is needed, you will need to submit the suspected shoes along with the original images in sealed packaging, as we cannot use the electronically submitted images for a comparison examination.*