



Manufacturer's Information

Test No. 15-5251: Serial Number Restoration

Each sample set consisted of a piece of stainless steel bar stock that contained an obliterated serial number (Item 1) and a piece of aluminum bar stock intended as a standard for the size, shape, and positioning of the stamped digits. Participants were requested to attempt to restore the obliterated serial number utilizing their laboratory restoration methodologies and report the recovered serial number. The serial number to be restored consisted of 6 characters (K25DFK).

SAMPLE PREPARATION-

Each sample set contained a piece of 1" x ¼" x 2.5" stainless steel bar stock that was stamped using a punch press. The stamp consisted of 6 characters (K25DFK) that are 1/8" in height. The serial number was then obliterated by removing material from the bar stock using a vertical milling machine. A consistent amount of material was removed from each piece of bar stock.

A piece of aluminum bar stock was also included in the sample set and was intended as a standard for size, shape, and positioning of the stamped alphanumeric characters used in the serial number. The alphanumeric characters are digits 0-9 and letters A-F, H, J, K and N that are 1/8" in height.

SAMPLE SET ASSEMBLY: An Item 1 was enclosed in chip board and the sides taped to securely contain the sample. The aluminum standard was wrapped in chip board and both were placed in their respective pre-labeled envelopes. Each sample pack was packaged with an Item 1 and aluminum standard. This process was repeated until all of the sample packs were prepared. Once verification was completed, all sample packs were sealed with a piece of evidence tape and initialed "CTS."

VERIFICATION: Three predistribution laboratories restored the obliterated six character serial number and reported "K25DFK". All three laboratories used a chemical restoration method for recovery.