



Manufacturer's Information

Test No. 18-5251: Serial Number Restoration

Each sample set consisted of a piece of 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 (7E24AN).

SAMPLE PREPARATION:

Each sample set contained a piece of steel bar stock that was stamped with 6 characters (7E24AN). The serial number was then obliterated by a milling machine.

A piece of aluminum bar stock was also included in the sample as a reference standard. The alphanumeric characters provided are digits 0-9 and letters A-F, H, J, K and N.

SAMPLE SET ASSEMBLY:

An Item 1 bar stock was enclosed in chip board and the sides taped to securely contain the sample. The aluminum standard was enclosed 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:

Two of the three predistribution laboratories restored the obliterated six character serial number and reported "7E24AN". The remaining predistribution laboratory restored four of the six characters and reported "75**AN". For recovery of the characters, one laboratory used a magnetic restoration method, one laboratory used a chemical restoration method and one laboratory used both magnetic and chemical restoration methods.