Submission of Gel Lifts

Gel Lifts may be utilized to recover latent print and shoe print evidence. Gel Lifts are a lifting medium consisting of a thick, non-aggressive, low adhesive gelatin layer upon a flexible fibrous backing. A clear acetate film covers the gelatin layer before and after use. Please note that Gel Lifts are subject to damage and the following submission guidelines should be followed.

NOTE: Gel lifts are not appropriate for recovering evidence that may require biological testing.

Gel lifts are to be labeled on the accompanying MSP Form 67 with the requested examination type (latent print, shoe print, tire track).

Recording Identifying Marks and Pertinent Case Information on Gel Lifts:

The gel lifts are manufactured with a blank white backside surface suitable for writing. No pre-printed blocks are present on the gel lifts, therefore the recovering technician must label and complete all case information as follows: case number, lift number, recovery date, initials of recovering technician and brief description (and/or sketch) of the location/item

These markings should be placed on the gel lift's white, blank backside surface ***prior to the clear acetate cover being removed and prior to the impression being lifted.***

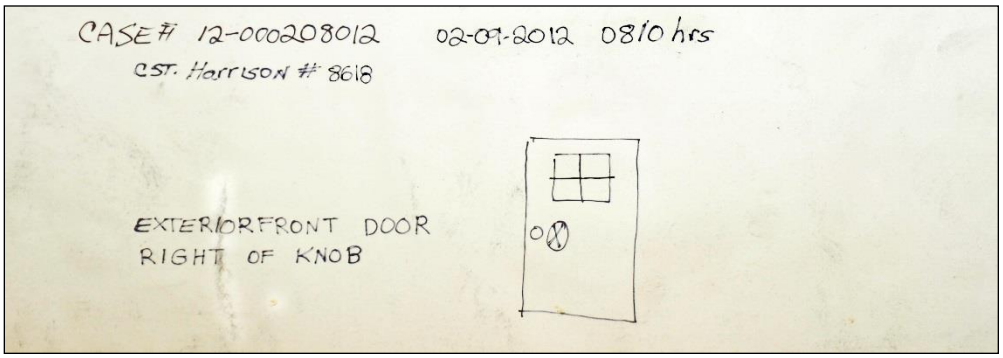

Figure 1. Sample of pertinent case information recorded on the back side of a gel lift.

Impression Integrity:

Peeling the clear acetate cover from the gel lift creates a static charge on the gel lift surface which will attract dust. Avoid contaminating the gel lift's adhesive surface once the cover has been removed. It is recommended that clean gloves be worn when handling the gel lifts.

The clear acetate cover must **NOT** be placed over the gel lift surface after the lift has been recovered. Removing and then replacing the clear acetate cover on the gel lift may produce air bubbles that contribute towards a loss of impression clarity and detail.

You must secure the gel lift ***without its clear acetate cover*** in a container having a closable lid. The container must be sturdy to assure that it will not collapse during normal physical evidence transport procedures. The gel lift must be attached/secured to the inside bottom of the container to prevent the lift from moving or flipping over. Taping the gel lift to the inside bottom of the transport container is suitable. The clear cover(s) is/are to be submitted in a separate envelope marked to indicate the contents.

Transport Container – Recommended Properties:

Containers must be large enough to permit the gel lift to lay flat in the bottom without folding or touching the lid. Folding or bending a gel lift may create a crease in the area required during examination.

'Small' Gel Lifts (9cm x 13cm)

Two (2) sturdy plastic 'dishes' of a shallow depth may be taped together in a 'clam shell' configuration. The sturdy plastic must withstand modest pressure during normal physical evidence transport procedures. The gel lift must be attached/secured to the inside bottom of the 'clam shell' container. Evidentiary markings must be placed on the outside of the 'clam shell' transport container as well as the packaging into which the 'clam shell' transport container has been placed. The top of the container is to be marked "THIS SIDE UP".

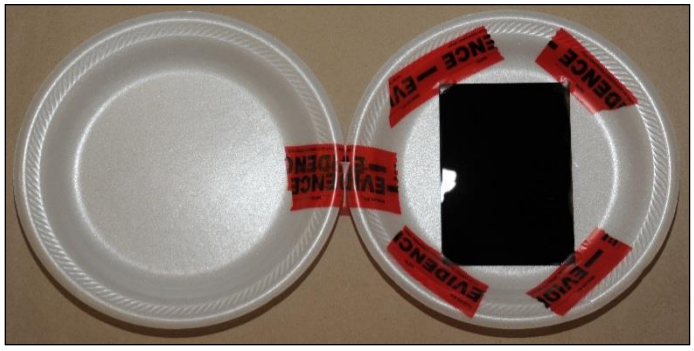

Figure 2. Prepare a 'clam shell' transport container using plates of sturdy plastic. Use evidence tape to secure the corners of the gel lift to the bottom plate.

Figure 3. Secure the 'clam shell' using evidence tape and record the case information on the container.

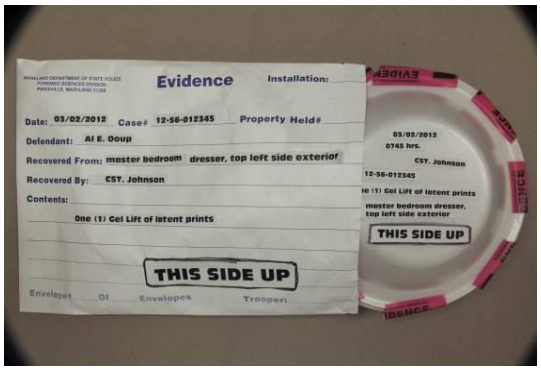

Figure 4. The 'clam shell' container or like container is to be placed into an outer evidence package such as a Tyvek envelope.

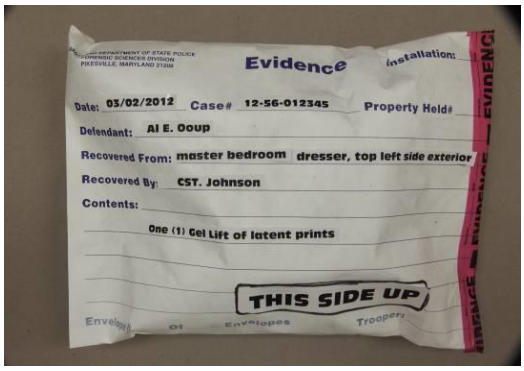

Figure 5. The outer evidence package is secured with evidence tape and marked with the pertinent case information and "THIS SIDE UP"

"Mid-Sized" (13cm x 18cm) or "Large" (13cm x 36cm) Gel Lifts

Cardboard boxes may be used to secure and transport these sized gel lifts. The gel lift must be attached/secured to the inside bottom of the cardboard box. Enclose the box to ensure that air-borne fibers or dust don't deposit on the exposed adhesive of the gel lift. Evidentiary markings must be placed on the outside of the cardboard box. The top of the container is to be marked "THIS SIDE UP".

Figure 6. The gel lifts may be secured inside cardboard boxes. Secure the corners of the gel lift to the bottom of the box using evidence tape.

The packaging containers illustrated above are examples of the types of containers that can be utilized to properly package and transport gel lifts. Submitting agencies are not restricted to using just the illustrated examples.

Storage / Transport Conditions:

The gelatin layer will melt at temperatures exceeding 100°F. The temperature of vehicles in the sun and on window shelves facing the sun may exceed this temperature limit. Avoid leaving and storing gel lifts in these locations/conditions for prolonged time periods.