



U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

Proper Ring Placement Protocol Clarification

Recently, it has come to the NIBIN Program's attention that there has been confusion regarding wording that is in the Region of Interest (ROI) (Acquisition Protocol) Guidelines on BRASSTRAX systems. This confusion is pertaining to the description of where the red ring should be placed by Users when capturing images of the firing pin ROI in circumstances where a circular firing pin impression shape is observed.

Currently, the wording regarding (specifically) this ROI type reads:

'Set the firing pin limit just inside the top edge of the impression. If possible, avoid out-of-focus areas at the top of the wall.'

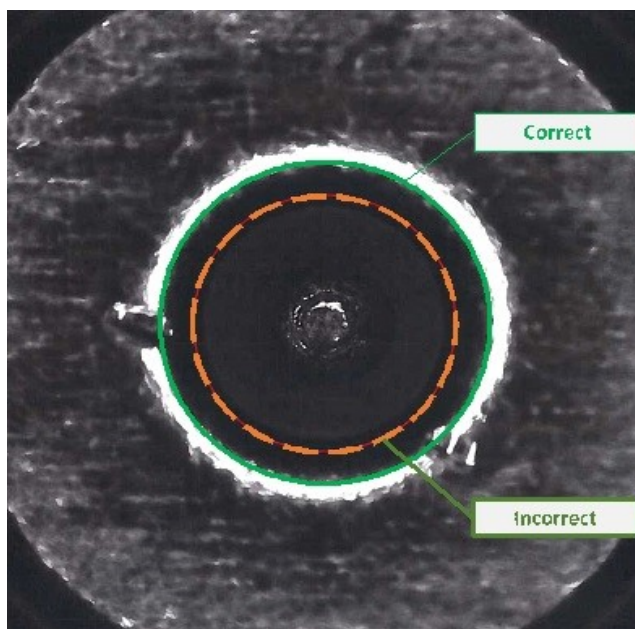
An issue arises when Users either decide (1) which of the two statements they'll give precedence to while choosing a ring location or (2) how they want to compromise within both statements to make what they think is the best possible acquisition.

In the event that a User chooses to use the location set forth in the first sentence, the ring would be placed differently than if the second sentence is focused on more than the first.

With that being said, what is the *correct* thing for Users to do? Under the heading for firing pin ROI guidelines, there is another heading called 'General Guidelines'. This section says that when placing the red ring for firing pin impressions, Users should place it so that:

'The ring is positioned just inside the top edge of the firing pin impression.'

This is the correct positioning for placing the red ring in firing pin impressions that are circular in nature. See the image below for an example.



After discussing this guideline with Forensic Technology, it was agreed to remove the second sentence from how the current protocol is written. This correction will be made in the user guides included with IBIS TRAX-HD3D version 3.1.