

involved. The odds against this are astronomical. As there are hundreds of photos purported to be of UFOs, they can not all be fakes).

2. It is not possible for a misrepresented photo to match exactly the details of a future unexpected sighting of an actual UFO. (Again, the odds against this occurring by chance are astronomical and with the limited number of photos available, the possibility can be disregarded).

Of the existing photos, we cannot, however, separate the real from the misrepresentation and that is our problem. Even if 50% of the alleged UFO photos are faked, which 50% are they? Our task is then to control the situation in the future.

The appearance of a UFO cannot be predicted, but once one does appear we can control the handling of the film. Put simply, our test of photo validity should consist of three stages, (1) control over the film and camera, (2) confirmation that the phenomenon sighted can truly be classified as a UFO, and (3) comparison of the photo with the reports of the witnesses. If the comparison verifies that the image in the photo is in fact the image of the UFO reported, we then have a verified UFO photograph.

Control of the film and camera should consist of immediate impounding of both; transfer to a reputable photo laboratory for processing of the film and examination of the camera, then dispatch of the photo to the Center for UFO Studies under controlled conditions.

The investigation report must be compiled by a qualified investigator to ensure that all necessary details are properly documented, including the reliability of the witnesses. The event itself must be one in which the actions of the phenomenon (e.g., right-angle turns, instant starts and stops, materializing or dematerializing, etc.) will make identification impossible, thus enabling positive classification as a UFO.