

DSS-V.01.02 | Vandalism

Scribed / Engraved Tool Marks

Intentional surface modification - hard-point incision of glass with metal/ceramic tools; discrete linear grooves, alphanumerics, or graphic outlines; chip-flank sparkle under raking; typically SC-2 along grooves, SC-1 at feathered tails

Diagnosis summary

Scribed / engraved tool marks are appearance changes created by hard-point contact (carbide/steel points, diamonds, glass cutters, masonry nails, ceramic chips) drawn across the glass surface to inscribe letters, numbers, outlines, or linear tags. The action cuts and plows the surface, producing grooves with micro-chipping (chip flanks) and bright edge sparkle in raking light.

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- SC-2 along primary grooves (distinct interruption; granular edge feel).
- SC-1 at light passes/feathered tails; SC-0 outside the inscription.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch (substrate). Use polymer stylus if a functional coating is suspected. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility at acceptance geometry and MSRT after a reveal patch. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-2 (Light): Fine incised lines legible in raking, intermittent SC-1-SC-2, minimal impact at standard view; micro-chips sparse. Indicative relief: ~20-60 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Clearly legible strokes/letters at standard distance; consistent SC-2; chip flanks evident along runs and at intersections. Indicative relief: ~60-150 µm.
- CAT-4 (Severe): Bold, deep engraving and/or dense inscriptions visible at standard and wide-field; frequent micro-fracture islands, flaked nodes, occasional local divots.
- Reclassify when: If the field is uniform matte within masked boundaries → V.01.01 abrasive blast; if cream/meniscus residue, runs, or brush texture present → V.02.02/Ch.01 acid etch; if linear scoring.

Distinguishing criteria

- vs.
- vs. Acid-etch graffiti (V.02.01): Acid tags leave whitened, modeled micro-texture with flow/cream artifacts; scribed marks are cut grooves with chip-flank sparkle and tactile catch.
- vs. Fine abrasion swirls (M.02.01): Swirls are curvilinear fields lacking clear stroke intent, typically SC-1; scribing is deliberate strobework with SC-2 grooves.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros of chip flanks, entry/exit points, intersections; context frames showing reach/access.
- MSRT result (substrate): After a small reveal test patch, perform one light, non-marring pass through stroke body and tail; record SC-class (SC-2 body, SC-1 tail, SC-0).
- Forms: Pane ID; product family & surface numbering; worked surface Y/N; functional coating present on worked surface?

Safety / repairability boundary: Complete only the non-invasive reveal and inspection steps authorized by the controlling VIS guidance. Classification does not authorize restoration, establish acceptance, or override stop-work, coating, crack, integrity, access, chemical, fall-protection, or project-specific requirements.

Full DSS publication: use the catalog download. Web specification:

<https://a7df714357.nxcli.io/learning-center/resource-center/damage-specification-standards/dss-v-01-02-scribed-engraved-tool-marks/>