



OSAC Materials (Trace) Inter-Laboratory Exercise

KICK-OFF PRESENTATION

ANDRIA MEHLTRETT, MATERIALS (TRACE) INTERPRETATION TASK GROUP CHAIR

The views expressed are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the FBI, NIST, OSAC, or the U.S. Government.

Overall Goal of the Project

- ▶ To evaluate the OSAC Materials (Trace) Subcommittee's proposed Interpretation Standard Practice by providing practitioners with case scenarios to which they are to apply the proposed approach.

Goal:

To Answer The Following Questions

- ▶ Does the proposed approach meet the objective of improving interpretation and report writing for the forensic science community and its customers?
- ▶ Is the document clear and intelligible enough to be easily applied by practitioners?
- ▶ Are there areas of the document that need to be improved or further developed?
- ▶ Are the practitioners able to reach the anticipated answers?
- ▶ Is there a consensus among practitioners regarding the significance of results in comparative examinations?

We will start with PAINT and expand later.

What's in it for You??

- ▶ The opportunity to:
 - ▶ contribute to the development of an improved interpretation and report writing approach, which has been identified as a need across the field of forensic science;
 - ▶ explore interpretation and report writing on realistic, but not actual, case scenarios in a low-stakes environment;
 - ▶ compare your conclusions with other practitioners to ensure you are in alignment with the consensus conclusion; and
 - ▶ identify areas for further independent study and professional development.

Tour of the Document

How to Proceed

- ▶ Review the proposed Standard Practice and possibly any relevant references in the accompanying trace review article. Specifically, the Standard Practice is at the link below, but can also be found via the OSAC Materials (Trace) Subcommittee website under Documents in Process/Under Development.

https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/02/ChSAC-Mat_Interpretation_Document_MARCH2020_0.pdf

How to Proceed

- ▶ Open the exercise link. You have the choice to login once or several times if you want to complete the task in different time intervals. Once you start the exercise, you have **one week** (7 days) to complete it and submit your answers. The absolute latest due date is August 14, 2020. Answer the demographics questions, and review the fifteen provided scenarios. No data collection or data interpretation is necessary; you are simply reviewing text-based details and deciding what you would conclude based on the interpretation guidance.

How to Proceed

- ▶ Answer the questions for each of scenarios based on the guidance in the Standard Practice. You are free to review the guidance document for each scenario and to move forward and backward through the scenarios and change your answers until your time is up.

It is imperative for the study design that you answer based on the contents of the provided guidance document, rather than relying on your own knowledge, experience, and intuition. Therefore, you must read and study the document and follow its guidance. However, if a specific scenario is not included in the document, then it is acceptable to use your knowledge and experience in conjunction with the document. Your justification will consist of a statement, like those suggested in the document, of why you chose a particular conclusion type.

Further, it is acknowledged in ASTM 1610 that there is more than one combination of techniques that might be appropriate for a comprehensive analysis. Please evaluate the scenarios on the merits of the techniques listed, when applicable, and not on the merits of the specific techniques you would use in your laboratory.

Also, please note that there is not necessarily a scenario for each conclusion type or necessarily the same number of scenarios for each conclusion type. Not everyone will receive the same version of the exercise.

All work is to be done independently and without input from others.



Demonstration of the System

DONNA SIRK, NIST

Please review the accompanying video.

Acknowledgments

- ▶ Interpretation Task Group and the entire OSAC Materials Subcommittee
- ▶ Tatiana Trejos
- ▶ Hal Arkes and Cedric Neumann
- ▶ David Flohr and Scott Ryland
- ▶ Donna Sirk and NIST



Questions?

ahmehltretter@fbi.gov