

2021-S-0011 Standards for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Reporting

Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science





Draft OSAC Proposed Standard

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Prepared by Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee Version: 1.0 November 2020

Disclaimer:

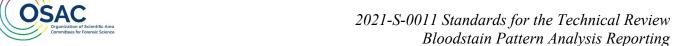
This OSAC Proposed Standard was written by the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee/Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science following a process that includes an open.comment.period. This Proposed Standard will be submitted to a standards developing organization and is subject to change.

There may be references in an OSAC Proposed Standard to other publications under development by OSAC. The information in the Proposed Standard, and underlying concepts and methodologies, may be used by the forensic-science community before the completion of such companion publications.

Any identification of commercial equipment, instruments, or materials in the Proposed Standard is not a recommendation or endorsement by the U.S. Government and does not imply that the equipment, instruments, or materials are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

To be placed on the OSAC Registry, certain types of standards first must be reviewed by a Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The STRP process is vital to OSAC's mission of generating and recognizing scientifically sound standards for producing and interpreting forensic science results. The STRP shall provide critical and knowledgeable reviews of draft standards or of proposed revisions of standards previously published by standards developing organizations (SDOs) to ensure that the published methods that practitioners employ are scientifically valid, and the resulting claims are trustworthy.

The STRP panel will consist of an independent and diverse panel, including subject matter experts, human factors scientists, quality assurance personnel, and legal experts, which will be



tasked with evaluating the proposed standard based on a comprehensive list of science-based criteria.

For more information about this important process, please visit our website at: https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/scientific-technical-review-panels



Standards for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern

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2	Analysis Reporting	
3		

4 Foreword 5

This document provides standards for the technical review of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA) reporting.

1. Scope

This document is intended to be applicable to all reports where BPA classifications or BPA case conclusions are rendered.

2. Introduction

In addition to an administrative review, all bloodstain pattern analysis reports shall be subject to a technical review. The technical review is designed to ensure the correct application of the methodology, and the appropriateness of the conclusions. This review offers an opportunity to identify potential errors and sources of bias which may have occurred during the analysis or in the generation of the report. In addition, the technical review provides a means of reassurance and confidence to its stakeholders that quality measures have been followed.

3 Normative References

Standard for a Bloodstain Pattern Analyst's Training Program, ANSI/ASB Standard 032, 1st Ed.2020

Standard for Report Writing in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis. ANSI/ASB Standard 031, 1st Ed. 2020

4 Terms and Definitions.

4.1 Terms

The following terms are meant to convey the meanings specified.

4.1.1

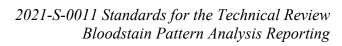
Shall – Used to indicate a provision is mandatory (unless otherwise documented for non-compliance)

4.1.2

Should – Used to indicate that a provision is not mandatory, but recommended as good practice.

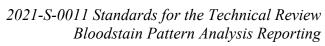


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Organ	sization of Scientific Area littees for Forensic Science	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Reporting		
45				
46	4.2 Defir	nitions		
47				
48 49	For the p	ourposes of this document, the following definitions apply.		
50	4.2.1			
51	T. Z . I			
52	Administ	trative Review - An evaluation of the report and supporting documentation		
53		stency with a forensic science service provider's policies, and for editorial		
54	correctne	ess.		
55				
56	4.2.2			
57	Ганана!а	Caianas Camina Dravidas (ECCD). A farancia asianas arranguas farancia		
58 59	Forensic Science Service Provider (FSSP) – A forensic science agency or forensic			
60	Science	practitioner providing forensic sciences services.		
61	4.2.3			
62				
63	Technica	al Review – A qualified second party's evaluation of reports, notes, data, and		
64	other documentation to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the			
65	actions,	results, conclusions, opinions, and interpretations.		
66				
67	4.2.4			
68	Dicerone	anay are noted by the technical reviewer, any deviation from the accented		
69 70	Discrepancy – as noted by the technical reviewer, any deviation from the accepted FSSP procedures or a difference of opinion regarding reported observations,			
70	•	ations or case conclusions.		
72	01010011100			
73	5. Ge	eneral		
74	5.1	Forensic Science Service Providers shall establish written policies and		
75	0.1	procedures for the Technical Review of BPA reporting. (Refer to		
76		ANSI/ASB Standard 031 Standard for Report Writing in Bloodstain Pattern		
77		Analysis)		
78				
79	5.2	The technical review shall be performed by a trained bloodstain pattern		
80		analyst. (Refer to ANSI/ASB Standard 032 Standards for a Bloodstain		
81		Pattern Analyst's Training Program)		
82 83		When selecting a technical reviewer, objectivity is essential. Any		
84 85		issues which affect the objectivity of the reviewer shall be considered.		
85				
86		The technical reviewer should be made aware of the scope of the		
87		original analysis, prior to viewing documents which contain the		
88		reporting analyst's work product or conclusions.		





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90	6 Technical Review Process				
91					
92	No μ	ndue pressure or influence shall be exerted between the reviewer and the			
93	analyst during the technical review process. Communications between the				
94	technical reviewer and the analyst should be limited to promote the				
95		pendence of the review.			
96	•				
97	The reviewer shall examine materials in the following sequence in order to				
98	minimize bias and have the opportunity to form independent conclusions prior to				
99	reviewing the analyst's report. Deviations from this process should be				
100	documented.				
101					
102	6.1	Scene/Evidence Documentation			
103		a. Photographic Images – All photographic images that were supplied			
104		to or generated by the reporting analyst.			
105		b. Crime scene diagrams/documentations/scans/videos			
105		5. Onino coone diagramo, accamentationo, coano, viacoc			
106	6.2	Forensic/medical reports			
107					
108	6.3	Analyst's supporting documentation			
109	6.4	Other relevant decumentation (e.g. police reports equal transcripts)			
110 111	6.4	Other relevant documentation (e.g., police reports, court transcripts)			
111	6.5	Outside forensic service provider BPA report (if references are made to it			
113	0.0	in the original analyst's report)			
114					
115	6.6	Analyst's report			
116					
117	7 Discrepancies				
118					
119	Upon completion of the initial review, any discrepancies the reviewer identifies				
120	with the procedures employed and/or with the observations, classifications, or				
121	case	conclusions shall be brought to the attention of the analyst.			
122					
123	Any	amendments made to the supporting materials (e.g., observations, notes,			
124	etc.) as a result of the technical review shall be documented (initial dated) by the				
125	analy	/st.			
126					
127	8 Co	nflict Resolution			
128					





129	Every attempt shall be made to resolve discrepancies that occur during the
130	review process, and the discrepancies shall be documented.
131	
132	In the event both parties cannot come to an agreement on an observation,
133	pattern classification, or case conclusion (an unresolved discrepancy), at
134	minimum the following steps shall be taken during the conflict resolution:
135	
136	 If a discrepancy occurs over the observation/classification of a specific
137	stain pattern, the resolution shall be to report the most specific
138	classification that results in an agreement. For instance, this may mean
139	reporting to a higher level of classification (i.e., less specific) or reporting
140	as inconclusive/no conclusion.
141	 Example: A discrepancy between the classification of pattern as an
142	expiration pattern vs. an impact pattern might result in the
143	classification being reported as a spatter pattern.
144	 If a discrepancy occurs over a case conclusion, the resolution shall be to
145	report the most specific case conclusion on which both the analyst and the
146	reviewer agree.
147	 Example: A discrepancy in a case conclusion between whether a
148	victim was kneeling or upright during an impact bloodshed event
149	might result in the reporting of the height (area of convergence) of
150	the impact pattern alone with no further conclusion.
151	If necessary, a second technical reviewer may be consulted to assist in resolving
151	a discrepancy. The consultation shall be documented in the original case file.
153	a dissispancy. The constitution shall be accumented in the original case his.
154	9 Documentation of the Technical Review
155	The technical review shall be documented and maintained in the case file of the
156	analyst. The documentation shall include, at minimum:
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158	 Signature (or electronic equivalent) of the reviewer(s)
159	Date(s) of review
160	Case file identification
161	The signature of the technical review confirms the reviewer is in agreement with
162	the observations, classifications and case conclusions in the report and each are
163	supported in the case file.
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