This document has been accepted by the Academy Standards Board (ASB) for development as an American National Standard (ANS). For information about ASB and their process please refer to asb.aafs.org. This document is being made available at this stage of the process so that the forensic science community and interested stakeholders can be more fully aware of the efforts and work products of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC). The documents were prepared with input from OSAC Legal Resource Committee, Quality Infrastructure Committee, and Human Factors Committees, as well as the relevant Scientific Area Committee. The content of the documents listed below is subject to change during the standards development process within ASB, and may not represent the contents of the final published standard. All stakeholder groups or individuals, are strongly encouraged to submit technical comments on this draft document during the ASB’s open comment period. Technical comments will not be accepted if submitted to the OSAC Scientific Area Committee or Subcommittees.

Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees
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Keywords: Bachelor’s degree, firearm and toolmark examination, firearm and toolmark examiner

This document is intended to provide minimum education requirements for firearm and toolmark examiner trainees.

Foreword

The following standard identifies the education requirements for newly hired firearm and toolmark examiner trainees.

This standard was proposed by the Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) by submitting a request to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Academy Standards Board (ASB).
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1 Scope

This document applies to forensic laboratory employees entering a training program in firearm and toolmark examination, and the hiring authorities at the forensic laboratories where they are employed. This document does not apply to previously trained and qualified firearm and toolmark examiners who may be temporarily referred to as trainees when they change employment.

2 Normative References

There are no normative references for this standard.

3 Terms and Definitions

3.1 Firearm and Toolmark Examiner
A person who has completed training in the discipline of firearm and toolmark examination and who is currently authorized to perform work in this discipline at a particular laboratory.

3.2 Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainee
A person who is entering or undergoing, but has not yet completed, training in the discipline of firearm and toolmark examination.

3.3 Firearm and Toolmark Examination
A discipline of forensic science which has as its primary concern to determine if a toolmark was produced by a particular tool, or if two toolmarks were produced by the same tool. When the tool is a firearm, the discipline also seeks to answer relevant questions about the firearms or ammunition involved in a crime or accident.

4 Requirements

Firearm and toolmark examiner trainees shall be required to have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, or international equivalent, from an accredited college or university. The degree shall be in a natural or applied science that includes laboratory coursework.

This requirement will become effective two years after the ratification of this document.
5 Conformance

Conformance with the minimum education requirement for trainees without previous qualifications shall be established by the hiring laboratory through the acquisition and retention of an official college transcript or equivalent document.

Bibliography