



OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need: Quality Assurance Framework for Crime Scene Investigation

Keyword(s): quality management, crime scene investigation, quality control, quality assurance

Submitting subcommittee(s): Crime Scene Investigations **Date Approved:** 11/7/2018

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background Information:

1. Description of research need:

Quality Management (QM) Systems have been developed and widely incorporated into laboratory systems. Need exists for the determination of how to apply these quality assurance standards to crime scene processing, with specific attention to the innate differences between laboratory and field work. What are specific quality assurance measures currently implemented by different accredited crime scene and SANE/SART units? What results and issues are currently accredited crime scene units seeing from their QM systems? There needs to be a fit for purpose and scalable quality system that can be implemented in differently sized and scoped units as the majority of crimes scene practitioners fall outside the scope of traditional laboratories and their quality assurance systems. How can one create a standalone QM system that is not reliant on existing laboratory QM systems?

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

ISO 17020, ISO 1705, ISO 21043-2, no research publications currently available

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

Capabilities of the laboratory would improve by the incorporation of structured QM systems to crime scene units as the quality of processing and collection of items to be sent to the laboratory would increase.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

This research would provide the subcommittee with base line procedures currently in place as well as proposed new best practice so that the committee can increase the scientific basis for Crime Scene Unit QM systems.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Effective QM systems aid in retained confidence of the judicial system. Currently a majority of crime scene units are not accredited and with this research we aim to allow more accessibility for Crime Scene Units to develop effective QM Systems.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):	I	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III	
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV	

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.

Approvals:

Subcommittee	Approval date:	11/7/2018
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)</i>		

SAC				
1. Does the SAC agree with the research need?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:	<input type="text"/>			
Approval date:	<input type="text"/>			
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)</i>				