<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Review</td>
<td>An evaluation of the report and supporting documentation for consistency with organizational policies and for editorial correctness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authentication, Biometric</td>
<td>Process of assessing a level of confidence in identify or identification.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bias, Statistical</td>
<td>A systematic tendency for estimates or measurements to be above or below their true values.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NOTE 1: Statistical bias arises from systematic as opposed to random error.</td>
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<td>NOTE 2: Statistical bias can occur in the absence of prejudice, partiality, or discriminatory intent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chain of custody</td>
<td>Chronological record of the handling and storage of an item from its point of collection to its final return or disposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive bias</td>
<td>A set of influences that may affect the reliability and validity of one’s observations and conclusions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency testing</td>
<td>Evaluation of a person’s knowledge and ability to perform work before authorization to do so independently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Bias</td>
<td>The tendency to search for data or interpret information in a manner that supports one’s preconceptions, expectations, or desires.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contextual Bias</td>
<td>A deviation in human judgment caused by exposure to information that is either irrelevant to the judgmental task or inappropriate for consideration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Material of established origin used to evaluate the performance of a test or comparison. Or a test performed to demonstrate that a test method works correctly and to ensure that data are valid. Positive controls confirm that the procedure will produce the expected result. Negative controls confirm that the procedure does not produce an unintended result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>A result that compared items did not originate from the same source, are not the same substance, or do not share the same composition or classification, based on an exclusionary difference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusionary Difference</td>
<td>A difference in one or more characteristics between compared items that is sufficient to determine that the compared items did not originate from the same source, are not the same source, or do not share the same composition or classification. NOTE: What is sufficient depends on the performance and limitations of the method used on the material in question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic</td>
<td>Related to methods, techniques and processes used to establish conclusions and/or opinions, facts and findings which can be used for legal proceedings.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Science</td>
<td>The application of scientific principles and techniques to matters of criminal justice especially as relating to the collection, examination, and analysis of physical evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlaboratory Comparison</td>
<td>Organization, performance, and evaluation of measurements or tests on the same or similar items by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Explanations for the observations, data, and calculations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intralaboratory comparison</td>
<td>Organization, performance, and evaluation of measurements or tests on the same or similar items within the same laboratory in accordance with predetermined conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Recognizing and noting an occurrence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>View, judgment, belief – takes into consideration other information in addition to observations, data, calculations, and interpretations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
<td>An independent evaluation of a scientific, professional, or academic manuscript or publication by a qualified second party to evaluate the claims, methods, interpretations, and conclusions.</td>
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<td>Proficiency testing</td>
<td>Evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of interlaboratory comparisons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reliability, Evidentiary/Legal</td>
<td>Credibility and trustworthiness of proffered evidence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reliability, Statistical</td>
<td>Consistency of results as demonstrated by reproducibility or repeatability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeatability</td>
<td>Extent of agreement between more than one result determined in the same place, by the same person, on the same equipment, in the same way, at similar times.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replicability</td>
<td>See “Reproducibility”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproducibility</td>
<td>Extent of agreement between more than one result determined under any combination of different conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>The product of the forensic service provider. This term is broad and includes observations, data, calculations, interpretations, and opinions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Review</td>
<td>A qualified second party’s evaluation of reports, notes, data, and other documentation to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, conclusions, opinions and interpretations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Validation</td>
<td>A process of evaluating a system, method, or component to determine that requirements for an intended use or application have been fulfilled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verification, Analytical</td>
<td>Performing subsequent testing to ascertain if the results are concordant.</td>
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For a complete list of forensic science terms organized by discipline, please visit the OSAC Lexicon ([www.nist.gov/osac/osac-lexicon](http://www.nist.gov/osac/osac-lexicon)).