

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*



OSAC Proposed Standard

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

Prepared by
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Subcommittee
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Standards for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Reporting

Foreword

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 containing BPA results, interpretations, or opinions. Written reports that include opinions based on professional judgment should undergo technical review.

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 reported information. This review offers an opportunity to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, opinions, and interpretations 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.

4.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

4.2.1

Administrative Review - An evaluation of the report and supporting documentation for consistency with a forensic science service provider's policies, and for editorial correctness.

4.2.2

Forensic Science Service Provider (FSSP) – A forensic science agency or forensic science practitioner providing forensic sciences services.

4.2.3

Technical Review – A qualified analyst's evaluation of reports, notes, data, and other documentation to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, opinions, and interpretations.

5. General

- 5.1 Forensic Science Service Providers shall establish written policies and procedures for the Technical Review of BPA reporting. *(Refer to ANSI/ASB Standard 031 Standard for Report Writing in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis)*
- 5.2 The technical review shall be performed by a trained bloodstain pattern analyst. *(Refer to ANSI/ASB Standard 032 Standards for a Bloodstain Pattern Analyst's Training Program)*

6 Technical Review Process

It is essential that the technical reviewer be objective. Factors that may undermine objectivity such as personal relationships and conflict of interest should be considered.

The technical reviewer should be made aware of what the original analyst was asked to do prior to conducting the technical review.

The reviewer shall evaluate supporting documentation prior to reviewing the analyst's report. Deviations from this process shall be documented. Supporting documentation reviewed may include:

- 6.1 Scene/Evidence Documentation
 - a. Photographic Images – All photographic images that were supplied to or generated by the reporting analyst.
 - b. Crime scene diagrams/documentations/scans/videos
- 6.2 Forensic/medical reports
- 6.3 Analyst's supporting documentation
 - 6.3.1 Documented checks of data transfers, comparison, measurements, and hand calculations.
- 6.4 Other relevant documentation (e.g., police reports, court transcripts)
- 6.5 Outside forensic service provider BPA report (if references are made to it in the original analyst's report)
- 6.6 Analyst's report

Any amendments made to the supporting materials (e.g., observations, notes, etc.) as a result of the technical review shall be documented by the analyst.

7 Conflict Resolution

Attempts shall be made to resolve disagreement(s) that occur during the review process.

In the event both parties cannot come to an agreement on a result, opinion, or interpretation,), the disagreement shall be documented in the case record.

The following steps may be taken during the conflict resolution:

- If a disagreement occurs regarding observations/classification of a bloodstain pattern, the resolution may be to report the most specific classification that results in an agreement. For instance, this may mean reporting to a higher level of classification (*i.e., less specific*) or reporting as inconclusive/no interpretation.
 - *Example: A disagreement between the classification of a pattern as an expiration pattern vs. an impact pattern might result in the classification being reported as a spatter pattern.*
- If a disagreement occurs over an interpretation or opinion, the resolution may be to report the most specific case interpretation or opinion on which both the analyst and the reviewer agree.

- o *Example: A disagreement in a case interpretation between whether a victim was kneeling or upright during an impact bloodshed event might result in the reporting of the height (area of convergence) of the impact pattern alone with no further interpretation.*

If necessary, another qualified analyst may be consulted to assist in resolving a disagreement. The consultation shall be documented in the case file.

8 Documentation of the Technical Review

The technical review shall be documented and maintained in the case record of the analyst. The documentation shall include, at minimum:

- Signature (or electronic equivalent) of the reviewer(s)
- Date(s) of review
- Case file identification

The signature of the technical reviewer confirms the reviewer is in agreement with the results, opinions, and interpretations in the report and each is supported in the case file.