

Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

*Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee
Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee
Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science*



OSAC Proposed Standard

Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

Prepared by
Firearms & Toolmarks Subcommittee
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Disclaimer:

This document has been developed by the Firearms & Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science through a consensus process and is *proposed* for further development through a Standard Developing Organization (SDO). This document is being made available so that the forensic science community and interested parties can consider the recommendations of the OSAC pertaining to applicable forensic science practices. The document was developed with input from experts in a broad array of forensic science disciplines as well as scientific research, measurement science, statistics, law, and policy.

This document has not been published by a SDO. Its contents are subject to change during the standards development process. All interested groups or individuals are strongly encouraged to submit comments on this proposed document during the open comment period administered by the Academy Standards Board (<http://www.asbstandardsboard.org/>).



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

- 1] Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Toolmarks, *Minimum Qualification for Firearm and Toolmark examiner Trainees Guideline*, approved April 20, 2006.
- 2] Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Toolmarks, *Minimum Qualification for Experienced Firearm and Toolmark Examiners Guideline*, approved April 20, 2006.