



Organization of Scientific Area
Committees for Forensic Science

NIST OSAC


CSI Subcommittee Update

Michael P. Kessler, CSI Subcommittee Chair

Presented to the International Association for Identification (IAI)

13 August 2019

<http://nist.gov/osac>

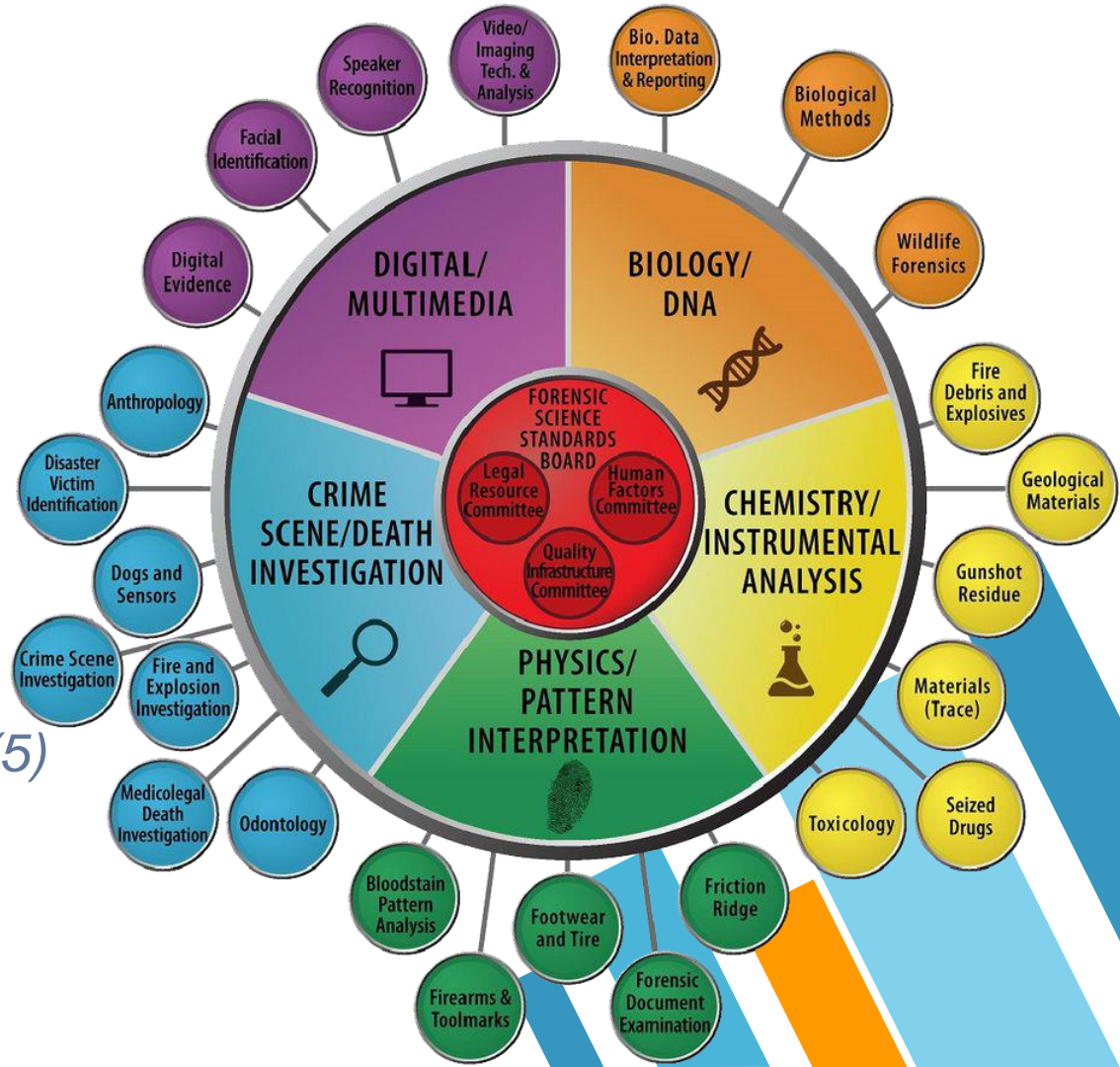


“If we are to better the
future, we must disturb
the present.”

-Catherine Booth
Cofounder, Salvation Army

OSAC STRUCTURE

- » *Forensic Science Standards Board*
- » *Resource Committees (3)*
- » *Scientific Area Committees (5)*
- » *Subcommittees (25)*
- » *Task Groups*





Crime Scene/Death Investigation SAC

Consists of seven subcommittees.





Crime Scene Investigation

CSI

SUBCOMMITTEE

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/crime-scene-investigation-subcommittee>



CSI Subcommittee

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graph TD; A[CSI Subcommittee] --- B[Crime Scene Reconstruction Task Group]; A --- C[Collision Reconstruction Task Group]; A --- D[Response & Identification Task Group]; A --- E[Collection & Preservation Task Group]; A --- F[Documentation & Reporting Task Group]; A --- G[Forensic Nursing Task Group]; A --- H[Veterinary Forensic Sciences Task Group]; A --- I[Forensic Entomology Task Group];
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Crime Scene
Reconstruction
Task Group

Collision
Reconstruction
Task Group

Response &
Identification Task
Group

Collection &
Preservation Task
Group

Documentation &
Reporting Task
Group

Forensic Nursing
Task Group

Veterinary Forensic
Sciences Task
Group

Forensic
Entomology Task
Group

CSI Subcommittee

CSI Subcommittee

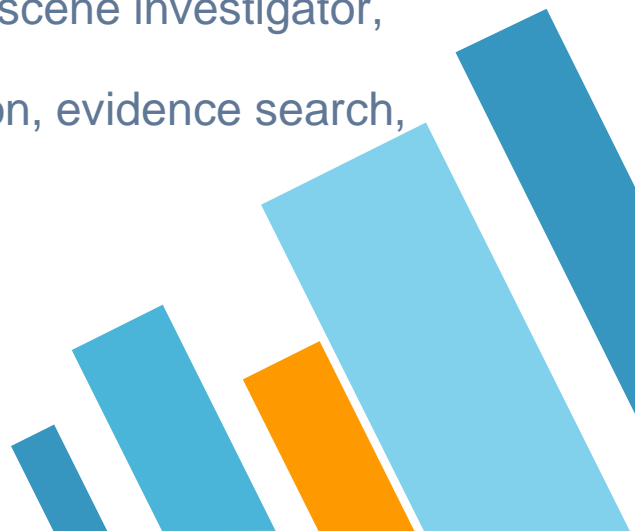
20 Subject Matter Experts

- » Crime Scene Investigators
- » Crime Scene Reconstructionists
- » Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
- » CSI/Trace Examiners
- » Laboratory Managers
- » Firearms Examiner
- » Shooting Reconstructionists
- » Academic Researchers
- » Independent Practitioners
- » R&D/Industry Representative
- » Forensic Entomologist
- » Forensic Veterinarian
- » Collision Reconstructionist






PRIORITIES

- » Education, Credentials, Training
 - » Crime Scene Administration-report writing, evidence testing requests, data management
 - » Human Factors/Contextual Bias-detective vs crime scene investigator, hospital/nurse
 - » On Scene Activities-response, safety, documentation, evidence search, packaging/collection, final considerations
 - » Crime Scene Reconstruction
 - » Specialty Areas of Crime Scene Investigation
- 




RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

- » Assessing the Culture of Contextual Bias in Forensic Scene Evidence Collection, Handling, and Processing
 - » Assessment of Level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required at Crime Scenes
 - » Decontamination of Crime Scene Equipment
 - » Laboratory Techniques and Technologies at the Crime Scene
 - » Use of Technology for Crime Scene Documentation
 - ◇ <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-research-development-needs>
- 




New Standards Sent to SDO

» Standard Practice for Crime Scene Investigator Training, Continuing Education, Professional Development, Certification, and Accreditation.






Revised Standards Sent to ASTM

- »E1843-16 Standard Guide for Sexual Assault Investigation, Examination, and Evidence
 - »E2123-16 Standard Practice for Transmittal of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigation
 - »E2124-15 Standard Practice for Specification for Equipment and Supplies in Sexual Assault Investigation
- 




Highlights from CSI Training and Education Standard

» **Crime Scene Investigator** - a forensic science practitioner whose responsibility is to use the appropriate combination of knowledge, skills, and experience to undertake one or more of the following tasks in relation to a crime scene investigation: documentation, search for or identify evidence, evidence collection, and preservation of evidence. **OSAC Lexicon**






Education Requirements

- » Associates degree with at least 8 hr of science.
 - » Strongly recommends a bachelor of science.
 - » Current experience can be substituted for the formal education requirement.
- 




Continuing **Education Requirements**

- » Responsibility of parent agency
 - » Minimum of 48 hr over a 2-year period.
 - » Continuing education must be structured, measurable, and documented.
- 



Certification/Accreditation

»“All crime scene units shall either have all crime scene investigation personnel certified or the crime scene unit shall be accredited. Ideally, all personnel will be certified and the crime scene unit will be accredited.”



This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.



Designation: E2917 – 19

Standard Practice for Forensic Science Practitioner Training, Continuing Education, and Professional Development Programs¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2917; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

Some material in this practice is based on the Technical Working Group for Education and Training in Forensic Science, National Institute of Justice (TWGED, NIJ), Special Report, *Education and Training in Forensic Science: A Guide for Forensic Science Laboratories, Educational Institutions, and Students* (1).²




Interdisciplinary Standards






Existing ASTM Standards in Registry Approval Process

- » E1459 – Standard Guide for Physical Evidence Labeling and Related Documentation
 - » E1188 – Standard Practice for Collection and Preservation of Information and Physical Items by a Technical Investigator
 - » E1492 – Standard Practice for Receiving, Documenting, Storing, and Retrieving Evidence in a Forensic Science Laboratory
 - » E620 – Standard Practice for Reporting Opinions of Scientific or Technical Experts
- 



Existing ASTM Standards in ASTM Revision Process

- » E678 – Standard Practice for Evaluation of Scientific or Technical Data
 - » E860 – Standard Practice for Examining And Preparing Items That Are Or May Become Involved In Criminal or Civil Litigation
 - » E1020 – Standard Practice for Reporting Incidents that May Involve Criminal or Civil Litigation
- 




In Registry Approval Process ISO 21043-2

- » Forensic Sciences – Part 2:
- » Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items

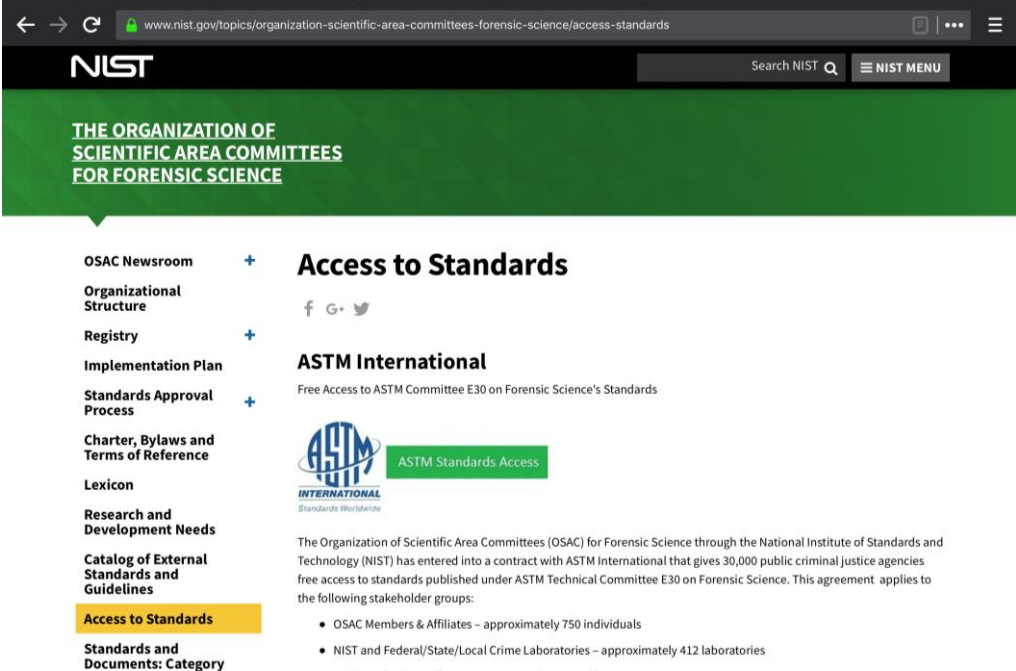
» **Scope**

» “This document specifies requirements for the forensic process focusing on recognition, recording, collection, transport and storage of items of potential forensic value. It includes requirements for the assessment and examination of scenes but is also applicable to activities that occur within the facility. This document also includes quality requirements.”



Accessing Published Standards

- » ASB - public access
- » ASTM - free access via OSAC.



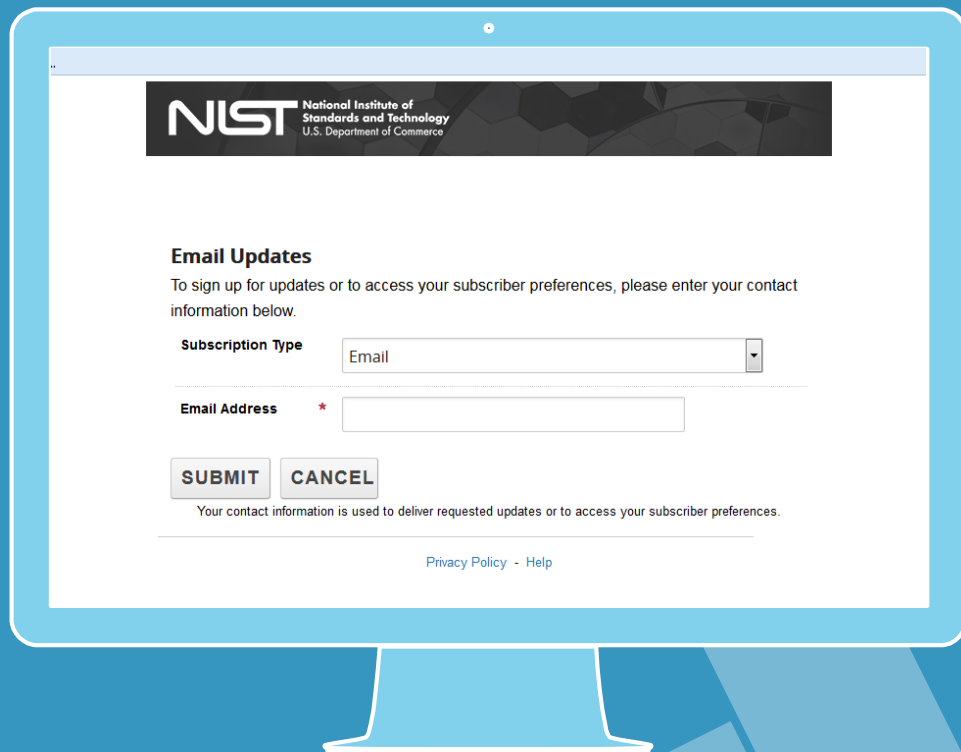
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/access-standards. The NIST logo is in the top left, and a search bar and 'NIST MENU' are in the top right. A green banner below the header reads 'THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AREA COMMITTEES FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE'. A left-hand navigation menu lists various sections, with 'Access to Standards' highlighted in yellow. The main content area features the 'Access to Standards' heading, social media icons for Facebook, Google+, and Twitter, and the 'ASTM International' logo. Below the logo, a green button says 'ASTM Standards Access'. The text explains that NIST has entered into a contract with ASTM International to provide free access to standards published under ASTM Technical Committee E30 on Forensic Science. A list of stakeholder groups is provided:

- OSAC Members & Affiliates – approximately 750 individuals
- NIST and Federal/State/Local Crime Laboratories – approximately 412 laboratories

STAY INFORMED

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

FOLLOW FORENSIC SCIENCE
AT NIST

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the NIST email update form. The browser's address bar is empty. The page header features the NIST logo and the text "National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce". The main content area is titled "Email Updates" and includes a sub-header: "To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below." The form contains two input fields: "Subscription Type" with a dropdown menu currently set to "Email", and "Email Address" with a red asterisk indicating it is required. Below the fields are two buttons: "SUBMIT" and "CANCEL". A small disclaimer at the bottom of the form reads: "Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences." At the very bottom of the page, there are links for "Privacy Policy" and "Help".

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Subscription Type

Email Address *

SUBMIT **CANCEL**

Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences.

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Help](#)



OSAC NEWSLETTER

Released monthly and includes notification of public comment periods, R&D needs, OSAC vacancies, OSAC meetings, and feature articles.

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Feature Article:

OSAC Publishes the Standards/Guidelines Registry Approval Process

One aim of the OSAC is to identify and promote existing technically sound, consensus-based, and fit-for-purpose documentary standards that are based on sound scientific principles. This is achieved through the *OSAC Registry of Approved Standards* and the *OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines*. A standard or guidelines that is posted on the registry demonstrates that the methods it contains have been judged by forensic practitioners, academic researchers, measurement scientists, and statisticians, to be valid.

Once populated, forensic scientists and practitioners will be able to refer to the *OSAC Registry of Approved Standards* and the *OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines* for a uniform set of high quality standards on how to produce scientifically sound and statistically valid test results, laboratory results, and courtroom testimony. These standards should help to increase confidence in the criminal justice system and the testimony put forth by practitioners.



The OSAC has recently developed and launched the *OSAC Registry Approval Process of Published Standards and Guidelines*, which is a rigorous process that includes checklist criteria against which existing standards and guidelines are to be analyzed before they are posted to the registries. This includes an analysis of technical merit, the openness of the development process (to ensure balanced interests are represented), consensus,

... Continued page 4

OSAC
ANNUAL REPORT

*Summary of OSAC activities from
February 2016 to February 2017
including OSAC unit profiles.*

*Available at
https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018/01/11/osac_annual_report_2017.pdf*

OSAC Technical Series 0001



**Annual Report
February 2016 – February 2017**

Annual Report Working Group
Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29325/OSAC.TS.0001>





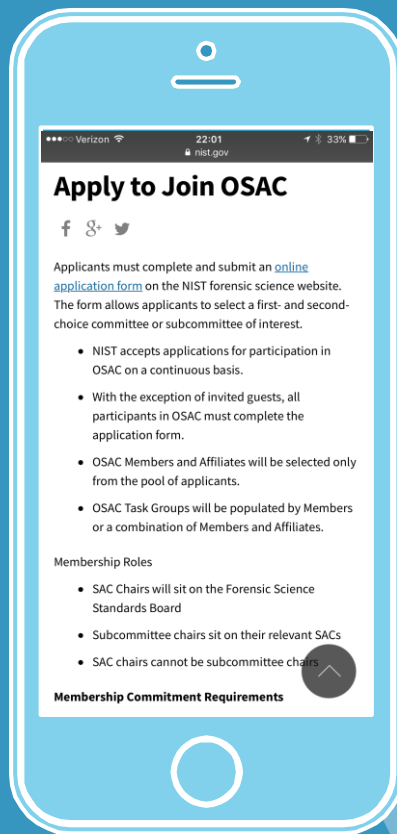
LEXICON

»OSAC has created a lexicon of over 4,000 terms organized by forensic discipline. New terms will be added, revised or removed, as sources are verified, and as new standards are published.

»<https://lexicon.forensicosac.org/>

TO APPLY

www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-application





Web addresses

To apply

» www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-application

Research & Development Needs

» <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-research-development-needs>

Stay informed


» <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at

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