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**Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and  
Toolmark Examiner Trainees**

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## Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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## Foreword

The following standard identifies the education requirements for newly hired firearm and toolmark examiner trainees. This document is intended to provide minimum education requirements for firearm and toolmark examiner trainees.

This standard was proposed by the Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) and was revised, prepared, and finalized by the Firearms and Toolmarks Consensus Body of the AAFS ASB.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Firearms and Toolmarks Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science.

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All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date of this standard.

**Keywords:** *Bachelor's degree, firearm and toolmark examination, firearm and toolmark examiner.*

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# Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

## 1 Scope

This document provides the minimum education requirements for forensic laboratory applicants and employees entering a training program in firearm and toolmark examination. 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 reference documents. Annex A, Bibliography, contains informative references.

## 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.

### 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 charged with conducting comparison examinations of tools and toolmarks and reporting the conclusion. When the tool is a firearm, the discipline also seeks to answer relevant questions about the firearms or ammunition components involved in an incident.

### 3.4

#### **firearm and toolmark examiner applicant**

A person seeking employment as a firearm and toolmark examiner trainee.

## 4 Requirements

Firearm and toolmark examiner trainees shall be required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, or international equivalent. The trainee shall be required to have taken coursework from an accredited college or university, or international equivalent, in physics, statistics, and general chemistry by the completion of their training program if it was not part of their bachelor's degree.

This requirement will become effective two years after the ratification of this document.

## **Annex A** (informative)

### **Bibliography**

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list as the group recognizes other publications on this subject may exist. At the time this standard was drafted, these were the publications available for reference. Additionally, any mention of a particular software tool or vendor as part of this bibliography is purely incidental, and any inclusion does not imply endorsement.

**SWGgun documents can be downloaded from:**

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/firearms-toolmarks-subcommittee>

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