

7-Sep-20

ASB Standard 135, Anthropology Scene Detection and Processing

#	Section	Type of Comm	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolution
	Title	E	WG suggest title change to be in line with other documents in this discipline	Change to: Scene Detection and Processing in Forensic Anthropology	Accept
1	Throughout	E	etc. is redundant when used with "e.g.", since "e.g." means "for example."	Throughout document, wherever "e.g.,....etc." occurs, remove the "etc."	Accept
29	throughout	E	longer-style inline citations are not needed	inline citations and references to texts could be removed and replaced with the numbers used in the bibliography to streamline reading	Accept with modification: In line references were removed from the document.
30	throughout	E	long full names and definitions (e.g., defines forensic practionners) are given in the text	Could include these in a glossary and use acronymn in the text to again reduce extra content	Reject: There were no specific recommendations provided. Non Standard acronyms reduce readability.
6	Throughout	E	Use of commas is inconsistent. Oxford or not?	Insert necessary commas	Accept
2	Foreword	E	First sentence insert commas after "for" and "of" to read "Forensic anthropology and forensic archaeology practioners assist authorities in the search for, and recovery of, human remains and associated evidence."	insert necessary comma	Reject: This sections is appropriate as is.
3	Foreword	E	Second sentence insert comma after end bracket to read " In some situations, forensic anthropology or forensic archaeology practioners may assist a jurisdictional authority (i.e., law enforcement, death scene investigator, medical examiner, or coroner), while in other situations they may be placed in charge of human remains documentation and recovery at a scene.	insert necessary comma	Accept
4	Foreword	E	Third sentence switch word order to read "This document is intended to assist forensic anthropology/forensic archaeology practioners in proper scene detection, processing, handling of evidence, and maintenance of the chain of custody, commensurate with jurisdictional requirements	switch word order	Accept
5	Foreword	E	Forth sentence, change word to read "Archaeological techniques provide the scientific foundation for appropriate detection, processing, documentation, and collection of human remains and associated evidence at a scene."	Change "in" to "at" to be consistent with subsequent sections	Accept
12	keywords	E	archeology' should be 'archaeology'	fix spelling	Accept
	3.1., 3.2. 3.3. and 3.4		Update definitions in 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 not to include the term in the first sentence of definition	Remove unnecessary wording in definition	Accept
	3.2		Update definition so that is more concise.	Remove unnecessary wording in definition	Accept
18	4.1	T	Needs more stringent requirements regarding chain of custody and documentation of chain of custody	Requirement to initiate and maintain chain of custody and document chain of custody unambiously and uniformly. To the extent maintaining such custody is not possible a detailed explantion should be provided for all efforts to do so, and reasons for the inability to do so.	Reject with Modification: Oftentimes chain of custody may fall to law enforcement and not on the anthropologists. The seventh bullet point in section 4.2.1 was clarified by adding "...or support".
19	4.1	T	Require more explanation and documentation regarding any inability to comply with this very general standard.	In the event that practitioners are eont able to implement this standard or if there are conflicting procedures or an absence of procedures, detail and document efforts made to comply, roadblocks in doing so and efforts made to consult with other practitioners or reasons for choosing a method over other protocols or best practices.	Reject : This is not a best practice document. The standard is not prescriptive, allowing practitioners to adapt to their situation.
	4.1			Replace "meet" with "adhere to".... jurisdictional requirements.	Accept
	4.1			WG updated the second paragraph for clarity	Accept
20	4.2.1	T	Provide guidelines from research on how to select strategies and meet goals.	Provide more guidelines or point to accepted research on what should be considered in selecting a strategy that maximizes data recorded and minimizes evidence alteration. Require that practitioner document reasons for electing to use one strategy over another. Provide more guidelines, with references on how to meet the goals laid out regarding detection and any recovery operation.	Reject : This is not a best practice document. The standard is not prescriptive, allowing practitioners to adapt to their situation.

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21	4.2.1	T	Include NCFs Recommendation regarding documentation of any analysis conducted.	Records should be created contemporaneous with the examination of evidence and the technical review that, along with the FSSPs' [Forensic Science Service Provider] quality management system documents relating to the forensic work performed, would allow another analyst or scientist, with proper training and experience, to understand and evaluate all the work performed and independently analyze and interpret the data and draw conclusions. See National Commission on Forensic Science, Recommendation to the Attorney General, Documentation, Case Record and Report Contents. Adopted 2016. Reference the ASTM E620 report on Standard Practice for Reporting Opinions of Scientific or Technical Experts. See ASTM Committee Report E620-18, Published April 2018	Reject : This is not a best practice document. The standard is not prescriptive, allowing practitioners to adapt to their situation.
13	4.2.1 paragraph 4	E	practioner' should be 'practitioner'	fix spelling	Accept
	4.2.1			WG updated the 5th bullet point for clarity.	Accept
7	4.2.2	E	Resolve tense agreement to read "The location and boundaries of the search area should be documented in such a manner that records the area searched and facilitates return to the area or expansion of the search."	Resolve tense agreement	Accept
14	4.2.2 par. 1	E	expand the search' should be 'expansion of the search'	fix grammar	Accept
	4.2.2			WG updated the first paragraph for clarity	Accept
22	4.2.3	T	Define and explain terms	Define what is considered "materials of probative value" with references to research.	Reject: "probative" is a general and widely used forensic terms that does not require a definition.
	4.2.3			WG updated the third paragraph for clarity	Accept
	4.2.4		Replace "evidence" with "information"	Replace "evidence" with "information"	Accept
15	4.2.4 par. 4	E	site or feature or human remains' should be 'site, feature, or human remains'	fix grammar	Accept
16	4.2.4 par. 4	E	questions being sought by investigative agencies' doesn't quite fit, as they are seeking questions but rather answers.	change it to 'questions being posed by investigating agencies' or something like this	Reject with modification: "questions being sought by investigative agencies" was removed from this sentence.
	4.2.4			WG removed last sentence of 4th paragraph for clarity	Accept
	4.2.4			WG removed 5th paragraph as it is mentioned in scene processing and documentation.	Accept
	4.2.4		Third paragraph from the end	revised and updated the first sentence	Accept
23	4.2.5	T	Vague standard for packaging, need to define what is meant by material evidence	Offer a definition of material evidence to be collected or provide examples, define what is meant by appropriate packaging for preservation.	Reject: This is a standard term and this document is not meant to be prescriptive.
	4.2.5			WG updated 2nd paragraph for clarity.	Accept
	4.2.5			WG updated last paragraph for clarity.	Accept
	4.2.5			Add as appropriate to the end of fourth paragraph.	Accept
17	4.2.6 par 1	E	suspect burial location' would be clearer as 'suspected burial location' (so it doesn't seem like you are referring to where the suspect was buried	change 'suspect' to 'suspected'	Accept
24	4.2.6	T	Give more guidance on when certain procedures may be used and under what circumstances	Provide guidance on when wet sieving may be appropriate and when it would not. Provide guidance on when metal detecting equipment may be used and when not appropriate.	Reject: This document is not meant to be prescriptive.
	4.2.6			WG updated 5th paragraph for clarity.	Accept
	4.2.6			WG updated last paragraph for clarity, recommendation revised to requirement.	Accept
	4.2.7			First paragraph updated for clarity, recommendation to read NFPA 921 removed.	Accept
25	4.2.7	T	Need more guidelines on managing debris near the body	Provide more guidelines on how to examine, excavate the debris located near the body with references to research.	Reject: This document is not meant to be prescriptive.
	4.2.7			WG updated 4th paragraph for clarity.	Accept

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8	4.2.7	E	Add space before start of bracket to read "The scene documentation should include the position of the body within the scene (for example kitchen or driver's seat), whether the body is believed to have been moved by first responders, forces associated with the incident or destruction of the structure."	Add space before bracket starts	Accept with modification: space added. Also "for example" was replaced with "e.g."
	4.2.7			Fifth paragraph edited example to be in line with the rest of the document.	Accept
	4.2.7			WG updated last paragraph for clarity	Accept
26	4.2.8	T	Provide more guidance	Provide more guidance on when control samples are required, under what circumstances and depending on what sampling protocol and why that protocol would be relied upon instead of others.	Reject: This document is not meant to be prescriptive.
27	4.3	T	Provide additional guidance on how to maintain the scene	Give more detailed explanation on in what ways the scene should be treated as a crime scene. Explain what forensic principles and procedures provide for documentation and security of evidence and maintenance of chain of custody. Explain what the appropriate archaeological and forensic evidence preservation practices are that would allow for preservation of the scene.	Reject: This document is not meant to be prescriptive.
	4.3			WG updated the first paragraph for clarity, shall revised to should.	Accept
28	4.4	T	Use the reporting language referenced in comment 4.	See above in comment 4. (ASB Note: it is asking to refer to comment #21)	Reject: This document provides minimum reporting requirements. Specific reporting requirements will have to be covered in an overall reporting document for this discipline .
	4.4			WG replaced "should" with "may" for clarity.	Accept
9	Annex A	E	Period after "Florida" on ref #4.	Add period	Accept
10	Annex A	E	Space after "2016" on ref #11	Add space	Accept
11	Annex A	E	Fix order of initials on ref #12	Fix order of initials	Accept