

ASB ~~Best Practice Recommendation~~Standard 143, First  
Edition  
~~2020~~2022

~~Best Practice Recommendations~~Standard for Technical  
Review in Friction Ridge Examination



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## Standard for Technical Review in Friction Ridge Examination

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## Foreword

This document has been developed with the objective of improving the quality and consistency of friction ridge examination practices.

It is essential that friction ridge examiners provide a sound basis for each conclusion drawn. Technical review of an examiner's work product by another competent examiner is a proactive measure to determine if this basis exists. This document [provides several recommendations to guide/specifies minimum requirements for](#) the technical review process.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences established the Academy Standards Board (ASB) in 2015 with a vision of safeguarding Justice, Integrity and Fairness through Consensus Based American National Standards. To that end, the ASB develops consensus based forensic standards within a framework accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and provides training to support those standards. ASB values integrity, scientific rigor, openness, due process, collaboration, excellence, diversity and inclusion. ASB is dedicated to developing and making freely accessible the highest quality documentary forensic science consensus Standards, Guidelines, Best Practices, and Technical Reports in a wide range of forensic science disciplines as a service to forensic practitioners and the legal system.

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

Questions, comments, and suggestions for the improvement of this document can be sent to AAFS-ASB Secretariat, [asb@aafs.org](mailto:asb@aafs.org) or 401 N 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

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## Keywords:

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## [Best Practice Recommendations Standard](#) for Technical Review in Friction Ridge Examination

### 1 Scope

This document ~~provides best practice recommendations~~ [specifies minimum requirements](#) for ~~how to perform~~ technical ~~reviews~~ [review](#) of friction ridge impression examinations. ~~The document provides general guidance on technical reviews best practices including a check list and sample review forms.~~

This document does not address administrative review, verification, or testimony monitoring.

### 2 Normative References

There are no normative reference documents.

### 3 Terms and Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **examiner (friction ridge)**

##### ~~competent friction ridge examiner~~

~~An individual who has successfully completed their FSP's training program and has demonstrated to the FSP that they possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the tasks required of their current position.~~ An individual authorized to conduct [independent](#) friction ridge examinations for the ~~FSP~~ [forensic service provider](#) by observing and interpreting data, making decisions, forming conclusions and opinions, issuing reports and/or providing testimony. [Use of the term "examiner" in these documents refers to a "competent friction ridge examiner" and not a "trainee."](#)

#### 3.2

##### ~~Forensic Service Provider~~

##### ~~FSP~~

##### ~~A forensic science entity~~ [service provider](#)

##### ~~FSP~~

[Organization](#) or [individual that conducts and/or supplies](#) forensic ~~science practitioner providing forensic science~~ services.

[ISO 21043-1](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### 3.3

##### **nonconforming work**

Work that does not comply with FSP policies and procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> [©ISO. This material is reproduced from ISO 21043-1:2018 with permission of the American National Standards Institute \(ANSI\) on behalf of the International Organization for Standardization. All rights reserved.](#)

### 3.4

#### technical review

#### **technical review**

A qualified second party's evaluation of reports, notes, data, and other documentation to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, conclusions, opinions, and interpretations.

[OSAC Preferred Term](#)

#### ~~1.1~~

#### **verification**

~~Confirmation, through either re-[\(phase of examination or review of documented data method\)](#) [Independent examination](#) by [another examiner](#), that a [one or more examiners](#) to ascertain if a [decision](#), conclusion, or opinion [conforms to specified requirements and is reproducible](#).~~

**3.5** ~~NOTE “Specified requirements” are reproduced or is in conflict with the FSP’s policies and procedures relating to analysis, comparison, and evaluation [decision, conclusion, or opinion](#) of friction ridge impressions [another examiner](#).~~

~~NOTE 1 Verification may be implemented in multiple ways including blind verification, open verification and consensus review. The general term verification is inclusive of these various types.~~

~~NOTE 2 Verification is a quality assurance measure for friction ridge examination.~~

~~NOTE 3 The use of the term “independent” indicates an autonomous examination but not necessarily one without knowledge of a prior decision, conclusion or opinion.~~

### 3.6

#### verification (analytical)

~~Performing subsequent testing to ascertain if the results are concordant.~~

~~[OSAC Preferred Term](#)~~

## 4 Requirements

~~**3.64.1** [Technical review of the case record shall occur in every case. FSPs shall have a written policy defining what is required in technical review.](#)~~

## 2 Recommendations

~~**3.74.2** Technical review of the case record shall be conducted by a competent friction ridge examiner as defined in 3.1.~~

~~**3.84.3** Technical review of the case record may be conducted concurrently with verification.~~

~~**3.94.4** [Technical review of the case record should occur in every case. FSPs shall have a written policy defining what is required in technical review.](#) Technical review shall be documented in the case record. As an example, the requirements for technical review can be satisfied by completing a checklist (see Annex A).~~

~~**3.104.5** \_\_\_\_\_ The FSP shall have a policy to address nonconforming work.~~

**3.114.6** Nonconforming work shall be documented in the case record. [Refer to Annex B for a sample nonconformity assessment form.](#)

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## Annex A (informative)

### Sample Technical Review Checklist

The presence of items on this checklist does not imply that they are required. Each agency may create a checklist that addresses its own policies and procedures.

YES NO N/A NOTES

- Are the notes legible and proper?
- Do the notes indicate that a proper inventory was conducted and completely documented?
- Are the notes organized, neat and understandable?
- Are the notes pages consecutively numbered?
- [Have the FSP procedures been followed?](#)

YES NO N/A EXAMINATION OF FRICTION RIDGE IMPRESSIONS

- Have the examinations been performed according to the FSP's standard operating procedures?
- [Have the components of best practice recommendations for the friction ridge examination methods been met?](#)
- [Have the components of best practice recommendations for verification been met?](#)
- [If the verification was blind, was the verifier shielded from the case examiner's conclusion?](#)
- Were conclusion(s) selected from the FSP's standard operating procedures?
- Are the conclusion(s) appropriate based upon the data?

YES NO N/A SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Are all images, printouts, and screenshots used to support conclusions in the case file?
- [Has all relevant digital evidence been accounted for?](#)
- [Are all images, printouts, and screenshots properly labeled?](#)
- Have observed details/characteristics been annotated where appropriate?
- If consultation occurred, has it been clearly documented?



If conflict resolution occurred, has it been clearly documented?

YES NO N/A EXAMINATION REPORT

~~Is the report format and wording, including any limitations of conclusions, in accordance with the FSP's standard operating procedures?~~

Have the requested examinations been addressed?

~~Are the results properly transcribed and clearly communicated to the reader?~~

Have appropriate additional samples/standards/exemplars been requested, if needed?

~~Has the evidence submission been inventoried and its disposition included?~~

NOTES/REMARKS

INSTRUCTIONS: The examiner and reviewer must explain all "NO" responses that were not corrected.

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**Annex B**  
(informative)

**Sample Non-Conformity Assessment Form**

Name of Examiner Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FSP Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Conformity:**

Incomplete Documentation     Clerical Error     Erroneous EXC     Erroneous ID

Reviewer Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Action (Reviewer): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Root-cause analysis:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Corrective/preventive action:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor/Director:**

Assessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Director Determined Action: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CPA No: \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Involved Examiner Acknowledgement:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Involved Examiner Comments:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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