

Deadline of Submission of 17-Jun-24

Document
Number: ANSI/ASB Std 196

Document
Title: Standard for the Documentation and Processing of Shooting Scenes

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	For Working Group and Consensus Body use only, not to be completed by commenter.
			E-Editorial T-Technical				Final Resolution
1	45	Terms & Definitions	E	casing	remove casing as an official term	Believed to be considered a slang term in the field of Firearms	Accept
2	97,123	Glossary	T	low (incident) angle used in two defintions	Define what low angle is in terms of a specific number, if there is one	Make definitions easier to understand for someone not in the field of ballistics	Accept with modification. Definition for pinch point revised for clarification and to remove low incident angle. Definition for ricochet revised to shallow angle
3	155	Procedures	E	Shooting Scene Preservation Firearms Evidence Documentation	Preservation AND Firearms Evidence	missing word	Accept
4		4.2.1	E	...for example: ejection pattern,	for example: impact sites, fired cartridge cases...	Return impact sites since they are a major item discussed. Remove ejection pattern since the location of cartridge cases covers that topic.	Reject. Impact sites are ballistic evidence, not firearm evidence. Section 4.3 contains the projectile impact information.
5		4.2.1.1	E		Move under 4.1. Add wording that there are other safety issues related to scenes and shooting scenes in particular that are not addressed in this standard.	By calling out firearms safety specifically, it makes all the other hazards in a shooting scene (eye protection around trajectory rods,	Reject with modification. "and any departmental or agency requirements and protocols" added to the last sentence to cover generic safety issues.
6	163	Procedures	T	ANSI/ASB BPR Rec shall be used to minimize	Shall to should?	Can shall be used in reference to a BPR? If so, then should the BPR actually be a STD?	Reject. A BPR can be referred to normatively according to ASB guidelines.
7	167-168	4.2.1.3	T	A unique identifier shall be assigned for each cartridge case, and recorded, along with respective headstamp information.	A unique identifier shall be assigned for each cartridge case, and recorded, along with respective headstamp information, when practicable and necessary.	I've been to plenty of shooting scenes where I've collected multiple fired cartridge cases as a single item when based on the scene it made sense to do so. A collection of fired cartridge cases in roughly the same area, all of the same caliber, and with witness information indicating 1 shooter doesn't need to be collected as separate items. NIBIN would prefer them all be together to decide the best exemplar to enter and later processing for DNA would like them collected together to facilitate swabbing. Headstamp information is a little overrated in my experience and opinion given the proliferation of reloaders and multiple headstamps being found in a single gun magazine.	Accept with modification. "Exceptions shall be documented." has been added to the end of the section.
8	167	Procedures	T	A unique identifier shall be assigned for each cartridge case	shall be assigned for each cartridge case or tight cluster of cartridge cases	Language adjusted to accommodate when there is a tight pattern of cartridge cases. If each individual location is required, provide a NOTE or explanation as to what that information is used for	Accept with modification. "Exceptions shall be documented." has been added to the end of the section.
9	177-180	4.2,1,7	T	n the course of shooting scene documentation and processing, it may be necessary for the 178 investigator to move objects within the scene in the interest of the investigation (e.g., search, body 179 movement). This is permissible, but non-destructive actions shall be taken first to record the 180 object's location to allow the object to be properly replaced for analysis, if necessary.	add" In cases where there is a decedent on scene, response to and removal of the decedent shall be prioritized, and shall be coordinated with the medicolegal death investigation authority to ensure the condition of the remains is altered by decomposition as little as possible."	This does not address if there is a decedent on scene, it should be made clear that if there is a decedent on scene the ever changing condition of the remains needs to be considered, and collaboration with the medicolegal death investigation authorities needs to occur, to ensure that needs of both entities are considered and prioritized to ensure protection of the condition of the remains. Far too many times i've had CSI want to process the scene for hours and hours, and leave the body laying there, decompsing and changing adn loosing potential fleeting evidence (related to time of death or wound margins dehydrating), not to mention decomposition occuring which is desprectful to the decedent and potentially to family's ability to view them.	Reject. This recommendation is outside the scope of this document.
10	183-186	4.3.1	T	All projectile impacts shall be documented to include photography, labeling, measurements, and location. Surface damage that lacks the physical or chemical characteristics to describe it as a projectile impact shall be documented in the same manner as a projectile impact and may be referred to as a defect.	All projectile impacts shall be documented to include photography, labeling, measurements, and location. Surface damage that lacks the physical or chemical characteristics to describe it as a projectile impact shall be documented in the same manner as a projectile impact and may be referred to as a defect, when practicable and necessary.	Same comments as before, not every shooting scene warrants this level of documentation based upon the circumstances and criminal offenses involved.	Accept

11		4.3.1	T	...and location.	...and 3-dimensional location.	All measurements must be in 3D. It is not uncommon for measurements to be taken in 2D and neglect that important third measurement.	Reject. 2D measurements to represent a 3D scene is generally accepted
12		4.3.1	E	Surface damage that lacks...shall be documented...	Surface damage that lacks the physical or chemical characteristics of a projectile impact should be documented and may be referred to as a defect.	Shall is a really strict requirement for every scuff mark and screw hole in a scene.	Accept with modification. Based on Comment 10, "when practicable and necessary" have been added to the end.
13		4.3.2	E	A single path...	Delete this sentence.	There are lots of potential pitfalls by labeling impacts as trajectories on the front end.	Accept with modification. Sentence revised for clarification to read: "When multiple impacts have been associated A with a single path with multiple projectile impacts they can be documented in a corresponding manner."
14	188-190	4.3.2	T	Projectile impacts shall be given a unique identifier and that shall be recorded in photographs, notes, and sketches/diagrams. A single path with multiple projectile impacts can be documented in a corresponding manner (e.g., A1, A2, A3).	Projectile impacts shall be given a unique identifier and that shall be recorded in photographs, notes, and sketches/diagrams. A single path with multiple projectile impacts can be documented in a corresponding manner (e.g., A1, A2, A3), when practicable and necessary.	I've been to plenty of shooting scenes where there is just a single hole in a car door, a single hole in a house, or a single projectile that traveled through two walls into a neighboring apartment. This level of documentation just isn't necessary for every shooting scene. A few weeks ago, my colleague responded to a scene where an intoxicated individual fired off 12 rounds into the dashboard of his own car. Why are we going to do all of this documentation for what amounts to a misdemeanor discharge of firearm in city limits or similar such charge?	Accept with modification. Sentence revised for clarification to read: "When multiple impacts have been associated A with a single path with multiple projectile impacts they can be documented in a corresponding manner."
15		4.3.3.b	T	...a scale/label.	...and perpendicular to the plane of the target surface.		Reject. Already covered in section 4.3.3 a
16	199		E		Remove note.	This section relates to impact documentation and the note references trajectory documentation. These are two different topics.	Accept
17	205	4.3.4.a.1	T	construction	material	Construction implies assembly, but what we want to do here is document the material(s) being impacted.	Accept
18	206	Projectile Impact Characteristics	T	contour	Does it mean curvature? Slope? Wouldn't that be similar to angle?	expand this consideration so it is more clear what is meant	Accept with modification. Added e.g. statement
19		4.3.5	T	Location of Projectile Impacts	3-Dimensional location (title and in body)		Reject-2D measurements to represent a 3D scene is generally accepted
20		4.4	T			The qualities of a trajectory that need to be determined/documented are directionality, location, and angles. That is how the original OSAC document was written. That was reworked in a way that lacks clarity. Suggest returning to the original organization.	Reject - Vague comment. These characteristics are covered in the revised document.
21	n/a	4.4 (4.3.2 in OSAC)	T	Original OSAC text removed.		A trajectory line must be associated with at least one measured impact in the scene. If this is not done, then the line is just floating in space and not rooted to the scene.	Reject - Vague comment. These characteristics are covered in the revised document. Under 4.4.2.2.3
22		4.4.2.1	E	e.g....	Remove e.g.	Consider removing e.g. as there are so many more common physical characteristics not included.	Reject. "e.g." is not intended to be "all inclusive". WG believes that it is important to have examples.
23		4.4.2.1	E	(e.g., pinch point, lead-in mark, bullet wipe)		Not incorrect, but also not all the most common indicators of directionality.	Reject. "e.g." is not intended to be "all inclusive". WG believes that it is important to have examples.
24		4.4.2.2.1	T		Single projectile impacts can provide trajectory information	This topic was very intentionally avoided because it is too hard to describe here when this technique does not work.	Reject: The use of "can provide" indicates that the technique isn't infallible. CB believes it is important to mention the existence of this technique.
25		4.4.2.2.2		...using tools such as rods, strings, or lasers.		The statement is not false, but it neglects that the trajectory can be determined through notes of those projectile impacts, calculations, or graphically.	Reject - The language does not exclude using notes, calculations or graphical analysis. These techniques are also covered under 4.4.3 b) and c)
26		4.4.3	E	horizontal (azimuth) angle and vertical (elevation) angle		We have already established the equivalency of horizontal to azimuth and vertical to elevation in the terms. Why keep using both terms?	Reject - Associations between common language and technical language can be helpful. Definitions cross reference these terms.
27		4.4.3.a.3 and 4 and 6.e	T	zero-base protractor	protractor	There are a couple issues. First, this implies that a zero-base protractor is required for this measurement when it is not. Second, the equipment section calls them zero-edge protractors, so we have inconsistent terminology. And third, the equipment list also includes standard protractors as an option, which contradicts the implied requirement to use a zero-base.	Reject with modification - terminology for protractor was rendered consistent at "zero edge" throughout the document. WG agrees that zero edge protractor is most appropriate equipment to be used.

28	247	4.4.3a5	T	all angle measurements shall be recorded in the scene investigator's case notes and documented photographically;	all angle measurements shall be recorded in the scene investigator's case notes and/or documented photographically;	It seems excessive and redundant to require both the recording (presumably via pen/pencil) of angle measurements and the photography of angle measurements. This is especially true when limited personnel are available. It is very difficult, if not impossible, for one person to hold the measuring equipment and take a photograph of it.	Accept. Changed to "and/or"
29		4.4.3.a.5	T	all angle measurements shall be recorded in the scene investigator's case notes and documented photographically		Do we want to require? Does this require photographing the actual measurement of the angle, such as a photograph of the angle finder? Is that necessary?	Accept - changed to and/or
30		4.4.3.a.5 and 6			and documented photographically to accurately reflect the horizontal or vertical angle.	Combine these two.	Reject - These are two separate procedures. 6 is specific to the perspective of a photo while 5 is the option whether or not to photograph.
31		4.4.3.a.6	T	when photographing, photographs shall be taken to accurately reflect the horizontal or vertical angle		There is a technique for taking photographs in a manner that allows for measurement of angles from the photograph. Is that what we are talking about here? Or is this just general photodocumentation of the trajectories?	Reject - 4.4.3.a.6 indicates that it is perspective related.
32		4.4.3.c	T	...are measured from the same reference plane.		This should be a common coordinate system, not a reference plane. See 4.3.5. It is not uncommon that impacts are measured in different coordinate systems that have to be associated later. For example, a trajectory that traverses multiple rooms. Those impacts would often be measured using a coordinate system associated with the room they are in, but the overall sketch of the scene should allow for those coordinate systems to be associated and one converted to the other so that everything can be done in a single coordinate system. However, the point is that they are not MEASURED in the same coordinate system.	Accept: Chnged to: "Horizontal and vertical angles can be calculated using trigonometry or resolving multiple measurements in a coordinate system."
33	259	Projectile Recovery	T	Efforts shall be made to minimize damage to projectiles...	Add an example or note for not using metal tools to retrieve projectiles or projectile fragments	Ensures it is clear to the reader what types of steps can be taken to minimize damage	Reject - The point is to minimize damage however the CSI achieves this.
34	267	4.5e	T	If a projectile cannot be found or physically recovered, the reasons shall be documented.	If a projectile cannot be physically recovered, the reasons shall be documented.	It may not be known why something cannot be found. In other words, perhaps a search was conducted in areas likely to contain the projectile, but it was not located. The reasons may be unknown.	Accept: Language was modified to read: "Projectiles that cannot be found or physically recovered shall be documented."
35		4.5.f	E	If the projectile impact on a target is removed, the removed area shall be collected and preserved.		Unclear what this means.	Accept with modification: "If the a projectile impact is removed from the scene, the removed area shall be collected and preserved."
36		4.6.2	T	Shot accounting shall include the loaded status of all firearms and magazines recovered in connection with the shooting incident.	If the loaded status of firearms and magazines connected to the shooting incident are available, they shall be included in shot accounting.	This information is not always available.	Accept - Added "if available"
37	276	5.1	E	Notes shall be taken contemporaneously with the examination, which records pertinent observations and measurements.	Records of all pertinent observations and measurements shall be made contemporaneously with the examination. OR Notes, which record pertinent observations and measurements, shall be taken contemporaneously with the examination.	Wording is awkward	Accept - chose second option
38	276,277	Recording and Reporting Observations	E	Notes shall be taken contemporaneously with the examination, which records pertinent observations and measurements	examination, which record	missing word or wrong word somewhere?	Accept - see above
39	275,280	Sections 5,6	E		Better suited at the beginning of the document since all tools and information needed prior to executing tasks within the document?		Reject. The CB feels these sections are appropriately placed, as they are listed in the Table Of Contents.
40	329		E	Noedell	Noedel	misspelled	Accept - changed