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Document Number: ASB Std 225

Document Title: Standard for Skeletal Preparation and Sampling in Forensic Anthropology

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment E-Editorial T-Technical	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	For Working Group and Consensus Body use only, not to be completed by commenter.
							Final Resolution
1	Preface	Preface	E	"This document encourages continued research and scholarly debate to improve skeletal preparation and sampling in forensic anthropology."	Eliminate or clarify this sentence.	Technically, this document contains no encouragement for research or scholarly debate. While the publication of Anthropology Standards may encourage the field to do these things, I think this statement is unnecessary (and slightly odd for a Standard to say).	accept with modification: Retained statement but language altered to encourage continued research without specifying this standard. This is language found in most of the anthropology standards
2	21 and 75	3.3 and 4.2.2.4.2	T	"The removal of soft tissue from skeletal remains through immersion in a liquid bath." versus "Maceration typically involves immersion in a warm water bath"	modify one or the other so they are consistent	definition and text conflict	accept with modification: Retained definition in 3.3 as is. Modified text in 4.2.2.4.2 to focus on the shall statement and not repeat definition
3	24	3	T	Terms and Definitions does not currently include proposed definition.	Add Anthro CB standard definition of skeleton/skeletal ("Osseous, cartilaginous, and/or dental tissues.") used in other documents to this section for clarity.	Skeletal preparation and skeletal reconstruction are described in this document and can include cartilaginous (typically ossified) and/or dental tissues. Adding the "standard definition" would be a clean way to ensure that those tissues are included in those subsequent definitions.	accept with modification: standard definition for skeletal remains added, so skeletal remains was used throughout document for consistency
4	32-34	3.7	E		move term & definition to before the term "skeletal preparation (processing)" and renumber 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 to reflect the corrected order	terms not in alphabetical order	accept: terms are now in alphabetical order
5	33	3.7	E	Sampling	bold first s	Consistent formatting	accept: formatting corrected
6	34	3.7	T	"the selective removal of a bone or portion of a bone for testing"	"the selective removal of a bone, tooth, or portion thereof, for testing"	Sampling of remains by forensic anthropologists also often includes teeth.	accept with modification: The modification accepted in comment 3, resulted in using 'skeletal remains' throughout the document for consistency. Skeletal remains as defined in drafted TR214 includes osseous, cartilageous, and dental tissue so definition modified to use skeletal remains
7	50-51 and 60	4.2.1.3 and 4.2.1.7	E	"All applicable data collection procedures (e.g., visual examination, metric analyses) shall be completed before remains undergo sampling." and "Sampling may be necessary before preparation dependent upon case circumstances."	All applicable data collection procedures (e.g., visual examination, metric analyses) shall be completed before remains undergo sampling, when possible. NOTE: Sampling may be necessary before preparation dependent upon case circumstances.	These items are related and should be combined.	accept with modification: 4.2.1.7 merged with 4.2.1.3 as a subpart and not as note as recommended. They are clearly related and should be together
8	52-54	4.2.1.4	T	"The practitioner shall maintain close coordination and collaboration with the medicolegal authority, particularly for unexpected non-skeletal evidence (e.g., tattoos, finger or palm prints, projectiles) and destructive testing."	separate out the multiple (two or three) requirements in this section for clarity into multiple sentences or a list. Example: The forensic anthropologist shall maintain close communication and coordinate/collaborate with the medicolegal authority to ensure that: (a) unexpected evidence discovered in the course the forensic anthropology exam (e.g., fingerprints, tattoos, projectiles) is communicated to the medicolegal authority, adequately documented, and preserved, as appropriate; and (b) appropriate approval is granted for sampling/destructive testing.	This sentence seems to confound several separate, but related, issues. Separating them into one sentence about communication, followed by two requirements, or listing them as three separate shall statements (communication, preserving evidence beyond skeletal remains, and permissions for destructive testing) would be more clear.	reject: The primary statement in this section was the coordination and collaboration (and by extension communication) with the medicolegal authority as is stated and examples of the type of information needing conveyance. Details pertaining to evidence management are outside the scope of this document so are not detailed here. The need for documentation is detailed elsewhere in the document (4.2.1)
9	59	4.2.1.6	E	Equipment and instruments used in preparation and sampling should be documented	change 'should' to 'shall'	If this is an imperative, change to "shall"	reject: Since a lot of the equipment used in preparation and sampling is considered disposal, they are not traced in the same manner as other, quality-checked equipment (NIST certified). Making this a shall statement would suggest there are specific pieces of equipment as opposed to types of equipment that are to be used
10	60	4.2.1.7	T	"Sampling may be necessary before preparation dependent upon case circumstances."	Move sentence to under 4.2.1.3 as a NOTE and add "and/or data collection." "All applicable data collection procedures shall be completed before remains undergo sampling. NOTE: Sampling may be necessary before preparation and/or data collection dependent upon case circumstances."	4.2.1.7 does not contain a requirement. It provides clarification regarding the scenario in 4.2.1.3. Adding "and/or data collection" clarifies that under some circumstances sampling may need to take place prior to skeletal preparation and/or data collection.	accept with modification: see response to comment 7. These were merged
11	68	4.2.2.3	T	Physical measures	Engineering controls	Revision would match the established hierarchy of controls	accept: Language modified to be consistent with common usage and understanding of this verbiage

12	74	4.2.2.4.1	E	Instruments such as scalpels or scissors should be utilized in a manner that mitigates damage	change 'should' to 'shall'	Statement may be more appropriate as an imperative than a recommendation, especially considering the requirement in 4.1.3 to limit or prevent adverse alterations of remains	reject: The shall statement is in the prior sentence to make imperative the need to minimize damage. The should statement acknowledges the common usage of scissors and scalpels. The addition of the shall as requested would make for an impossible standard to achieve.
13	75-76	4.2.2.4.2	E	Maceration typically involves immersion in a warm water bath and boiling temperatures ( $\geq 212^{\circ}\text{F}/100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) shall be avoided.	Maceration typically involves immersion in a warm water bath, and boiling temperatures ( $\geq 212^{\circ}\text{F}/100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) shall be avoided.	add a comma between the two complete sentences	accept with modification: Modification of language resulting from comment 2 resulted in a language change making this comment obsolete
14	79	4.2.2.4.2.1	T	Chemical detergents and additives	Detergent, enzymes, and/or enzymatic detergents	Clearly describes the options available as opposed to hot water alone	reject: Specifying what is meant by additives is outside of the scope of this document and is more appropriate for a best practice detailing the types of additives recommended for use
15	88	4.2.3.1	T	isotopes	stable isotope analysis, radiocarbon dating	Clearly describes isotope testing	accept with modification: Changed isotope to stable isotope analysis but did not add radiocarbon dating as this is not meant to be an exhaustive list for testing
16	89-91	4.2.3.2	T	Samples shall be taken from regions of bone not typically used in establishing a biological profile, supporting a personal identification, or that are otherwise analytically relevant (e.g., restored teeth, areas of trauma, measurements) when possible.	Samples shall be taken from regions of bone that are not analytically relevant (e.g., used to establish a biological profile, analyze trauma, or support a personal identification), when possible.	bad grammar (not parallel structure of clauses), last part of sentence doesn't make sense	accept: Sentence corrected as suggested
17	100	4.3.2	E	Skeletal remains retained for extended periods of time should be labeled	change 'should' to 'shall'	If this is an imperative, change to "shall"	reject: The preference is for labeling, but this is outside of the control of most practitioners and relates to the evidence handling procedures of the medicolegal authority so left as a should statement
18	102	4.3.3	E	"...shall be documented and reversible. ."	Remove extra period	Second period not needed	accept: corrected as suggested
19	102	4.3.3	E	materials used shall be documented and reversible. .	delete extra space and period	duplicate punctuation	accept: corrected as suggested