



Questioned Documents Section – 2003

J15 ABFDE Test Validation Project and Pilot Testing

Howard A. Birnbaum, Jr., BS, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Questioned Document Unit, 2310 North 20th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ; and Thomas Haladyna, PhD*, Arizona State University, West, Phoenix, AZ*

Pilot testing is a necessary component of test validation as outlined in the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board's (FSAB) Standard for Accrediting Forensic Specialty Certification Boards. The Board has made the decision to pursue FSAB accreditation, and in order to properly validate its written test, a pilot testing process needs to be established.

Approximately 60% of ABFDE diplomates completed a Survey of Professional Practice that was distributed in August 2002. As a result of the surveys, topics have been selected on which multiple-choice test questions are being prepared. Diplomates who have already completed the testing process have volunteered to prepare the questions from which 250 will be selected for the pilot test to be given at AAFS meeting in Chicago. Validated questions will be included in a proof of questions from which items for the live test(s) will be selected.

Participation as a pilot test take is voluntary. The test will be administered by Dr. Thomas Haladyna from Arizona State University, West, with the assistance of ABFDE Director Howard Birnbaum.

ABFDE, Test Validation, Accreditation