



## Criminalistics Section - 2016

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### **B40 Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Activities Impacting Laboratory Operations**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the latest standards and guidelines reviewed by the OSAC for Forensic Science and their potential to impact laboratory operations. The OSAC is comprised of 33 operating units and more than 100 task groups populated by 540 OSAC members and 150 affiliates, all working on specific standards activities.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating attendees on the standards and guidelines reviewed by the OSAC and how implementation of these standards in the forensic science community is likely to occur. Instructions will also be provided on how individuals can become involved with the OSAC and can have an impact on standards development efforts.

The OSAC has been fully operational since January 2015 and continues to transition the fragmented standards development efforts in the forensic industry to a unified process of recognizing valuable standards and guidelines that have both scientific merit and wide-based community acceptance. OSAC subcommittees have reviewed an initial National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) -developed catalog of external standards and guidelines that contained more than 700 documents that existed prior to OSAC. As part of the OSAC development and review process, subcommittees determine if documents have scientific merit and if they were developed through an open standards development process. In addition, documents are reviewed to determine if they have addressed legal and human factors issues and have properly documented the potential impact on existing laboratory operations. From this effort, the 24 OSAC subcommittees have selected specific documents to route for approval to post on OSAC registries or, in many cases, to further develop with the intention of enhancing a document's scientific basis and/or range of public input received.

With forensic science practitioners, researchers, statisticians, and measurement scientists collaborating to bolster existing standards and guidelines or develop new standards from scratch, the forensic science community can have confidence in the documents that are approved to be listed on the *OSAC Registry of Approved Standards* and the *OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines*.

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#### **Standards, OSAC, NIST**