



B97 An Update on the Academy Standards Board (ASB) Firearms and Tool Marks Consensus Body

Gregory E. Laskowski, MPA, Criminalistics Services International, LLC, 8021 Dottie Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308*

The goals of this presentation are to describe the purpose of the ASB Firearms and Tool Marks (FATM) Consensus Body and to present updates as to the Body's work on developing and approving standards in the disciplines of firearms and tool marks analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing attendees with information on the progress the FATM Consensus Body has made and is making in the areas of firearms and tool mark examinations.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences created the ASB as a response to the need for standardization from the forensic community. This was in line with recommendations in the 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report. It is now working in cooperation with the Forensic Science Board of the Organization of Scientific Areas (OSACS). The purpose of the FATM Consensus Body is to focus on standards and guidelines related to the examination of firearm and tool mark evidence. This includes the comparison of microscopic tool marks on bullets, cartridge cases, and other ammunition components and may also include firearm function testing, serial number restoration, muzzle-to-object distance determination, tools, and tool marks.

This presentation will discuss the inception of the ASB, its legal status as an entity, its membership, its mission, and a discussion on its consensus bodies with particular emphasis on the discipline of firearms and tool marks. Created in 2016, and under ASB Secretariat Brad Wing, the FATM Consensus Body is comprised of 33 members representing a number of disciplines that include subject matter experts, general interest, consumer groups, user/government (federal, state, and local), academia, producers, and user/industry. In addition to members, there are observers as well as managers from the ASB. Observers and other non-members are encouraged to participate by reviewing documents and offering comments. Standards can be developed by the Consensus Body or offered by other bodies such as the OSACs. Once documents containing recommended standards and guidelines are submitted to the Consensus Body, the documents will be reviewed by members of that body, and changes to those documents may be made to meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) publishing guidelines. Once the documents have been reviewed, they will be offered up for public comment. All public comments must be reviewed and addressed by the Consensus Body. After final review, the documents will be published as guidelines or standards.

It is imperative that all members participate, and that those individuals and bodies that are affected by proposed standards and guidelines participate by subscribing to the FATM Consensus Body and listen to meetings which are broadcast on Join Me™, read the documents, and offer constructive comments.

ASB, Consensus Body, FATM