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### B98 An Update on the Academy Standards Board (ASB) Firearms and Tool Marks (FATM) Consensus Body

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**Learning Overview:** The goals of this presentation are to describe to attendees the purpose of the ASB 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.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing attendees information on what the mission of the FATM Consensus Body is and the progress it has made and is making in creating standards in the area of firearms and tool mark examinations.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences created the Standards Board (ASB) as a response to the need for standardization from the forensic community. This was in line with recommendations in the 2009 NAS Report.<sup>1</sup> It is now working in cooperation with the Forensic Science Board of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). The purpose of the FATM Consensus Body is that it focuses 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, and analysis of tools and tool marks.

This presentation will discuss the inception of the ASB, its legal status as an entity, its membership, its mission, 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 made up 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. Besides 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, they will be reviewed by members of that body, and changes to those documents may be made to meet American National Standards Institute (ANSI) publishing guidelines. Once the documents have been reviewed, they will be offered up for public comment. Any and 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 affected by proposed standards and guidelines participate by subscribing to FATM Consensus Body communications, listen in to meetings, which are broadcast on Join Me, read the documents, and offer constructive comments.

#### Reference(s):

- <sup>1</sup> National Research Council (NRC), Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community. (2009). *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

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#### Standards, Firearms, Tool Marks