

## Safe Handling of Firearms and Ammunition



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

This standard provides guidelines for the safe handling of firearm and ammunition evidence during forensic analysis by firearm and toolmark examiners or technicians.

This best practice recommendation is intended to be used alongside [ANSI/ASB 093, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., 2020](#).

The recommendations contained in this document are based on information contained in publications from the National Rifle Association (NRA), the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc. (SAAMI), and the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE).

### WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Firearm and ammunition evidence present a significant hazard for a forensic science service provider if they are not handled in a safe manner.

Adherence to the recommendations in this document will help ensure the safety of all personnel charged with the responsibility of handling firearm and ammunition evidence in the normal course of their duties.

A commitment to the safe handling of firearms and ammunition is not only essential to the immediate health and welfare of personnel but is also a hallmark of an effective quality management system.

### HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This best practice recommendation contains all the key elements for the safe handling of firearm and ammunition evidence relating to forensic analysis. This standard may assist forensic science service providers in developing an internal procedure.

Key elements of this recommendation include general safety precautions, pre-examination considerations, handling during examination, test firing, post-examination considerations, and incident reporting.

This document is not intended to detail the analytical procedures for the forensic examination of firearms or ammunition, which is the subject of other documents.

