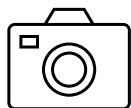


## Standard Guide for Laboratory Photography



### 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 proposed standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROPOSED STANDARD?

This standard was developed to provide guidance to forensic science service providers (FSSPs) and practitioners on best practices in the photographic documentation of evidence in a laboratory environment.

With countless camera and lighting options available to practitioners, this standard aims to provide recommendations on overall equipment settings and lighting setups. Additionally, this standard provides guidance on the use of scales and other specialized equipment to capture images that are accurate representations of the evidence and are suitable for additional analysis as needed.

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

Photography of evidence in a controlled environment, such as a studio or laboratory, is ideal for capturing images of small or fragile evidence (e.g., biological staining, fingerprints, footwear impressions).

Properly captured images of this detail may serve various objectives in the identification of an individual or other aspects of an investigation.

Practitioners who adhere to this standard are following practices that promote the production of high-quality photographs with repeatability and consistency while maintaining image integrity throughout the process.

This OSAC Proposed Standard has been sent to ASTM International (ASTM) for further development and publication. Get involved as a member or by providing public comment.

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

This standard can be used by any forensic science practitioner with appropriate training in forensic photography. This standard does not replace a formalized training program.

FSSPs can use this standard to create standard operating procedures (SOPs), to supplement existing SOPs, or replace existing SOPs as deemed appropriate.

Various camera settings and lighting and photography techniques that should be considered when photographing different types of evidence or areas of interest on evidence are addressed. Illustrations of lighting setups are included that assist in explaining various lighting configurations for different scenarios. Additional recommendations on file management and retention are provided so practitioners will protect the integrity of the photographs for any potential future needs.

While all aspects of uncommon and unusual situations may not be covered, this standard offers guidance on novel techniques in laboratory photography.

