Standard Guide for Forensic Photogrammetry



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?

Photogrammetric examination is the process of obtaining dimensional information regarding objects and people depicted in an image.

Photogrammetric examination can aid in the exclusion and inclusion of items and people in forensic investigations. It can also answer specific questions regarding speed, size, location, and distance of objects, areas, etc., in the field of view.

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

This standard provides basic information on conducting photogrammetric examinations as a part of forensic analysis covering reverse projection photogrammetry and analytical photogrammetry. The standard includes requirements for an independent review of results obtained and addresses potential biasing effects.

The standard includes detailed recommendations for forensic science service providers (FSSPs) procedures.

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?

The standard is to be used to assist FSSPs in the establishment of step-by-step procedures for forensic photogrammetry.

This standard addresses three phases of photogrammetric examination:

- **Evidence Preparation**
 - Examinations are conducted on working copies of the imagery, not on the original imagery, and may use only a subset of the material submitted for examination.
 - The working copy can be processed for enhancement and/or restoration.
- Methodology
 - There are multiple techniques available for photogrammetric examinations.
 - The standard covers two: reverse projection and analytical photogrammetry.
- Interpretation of Results
 - Measured results will require interpretation by the forensic science practitioner.
 - Sources of measurement uncertainty are taken into consideration.
 - An independent review of results by a qualified individual is recommended.

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