



Forensic analysis

Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material

STANDARDS
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CH-041, Forensic Analysis. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 May 2012. This Standard was published on 31 May 2012.

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- Australian Association of Forensic Physicians
- Australian Federal Police
- Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency
- Consumer Action
- Expertise, Evidence and Law Program, School of Law, University of New South Wales
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- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic and Data Centres
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
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- Northern Territory Police Forensic Science Branch
- Queensland Health, Forensic and Scientific Services
- Queensland Police, Forensic Services Branch
- South Australia Police
- Senior Managers Australia and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories

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Australian Standard[®]

Forensic analysis

**Part 1: Recognition, recording,
recovery, transport and storage of
material**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CH-041, Forensic Analysis. This Standard is the result of a consensus among the representatives of the Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (October 2017). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

This Standard is part of a series which, when complete, will include—

AS

5388 Forensic analysis

5388.1 Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material (this Standard)

5388.2 Part 2: Analysis and examination of material

5388.3 Part 3: Interpretation

5388.4 Part 4: Reporting

The purpose of this Standard is to set out standard practices for the recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of physical material from crime scenes in order to preserve its integrity for forensic purposes. The provisions of this document are aimed at qualified personnel with demonstrated competence in the use of appropriate scientific procedures and techniques in a forensic context.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the support provided by the Attorney General’s Department in the development of the Forensic Analysis series (AS 5388) as an Australian Government initiative.

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FOREWORD

The principal focus of the document is the crime scene. That crime scene may be the actual location where the crime took place or a secondary location such as a car or dwelling or any other object which may yield physical material of value to the investigation or any subsequent judicial process.

Persons involved in crime, whether perpetrator, witness or victim, may also be possible sources of relevant physical material. Examples of such material would be samples from the sexual assault victim, post-mortem examination samples, blood spattered on a witness or broken glass on the clothing of the suspect.

Impressions such as tool marks are physical material in the same way as bloodstains, hairs and fibres, drug samples, broken glass and other tangible objects.

A1 | Although this Standard does not address procedures for the recovery of data from digital storage media, it is important to remember that the storage medium itself may yield physical material such as fingerprints or DNA. The forensic examiner should bear this in mind during the recording and handling of such material to maximize potential evidence recovery.

The response to a crime will depend on the circumstances of the case. Accordingly, the resources and facilities required by and/or available to an investigator will vary. Some aspects of crime scene examination described in this document may apply in practice only to more serious crime. Nevertheless, this Standard attempts to provide general principles that apply to greater or lesser extent at all scenes.

This Standard calls for the use of procedures that may be hazardous or injurious to health, if adequate provisions are not taken.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Forensic analysis

Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of physical material from crime scenes in order to preserve its integrity for forensic purposes, and covers the following processes:

- (a) Recognizing material of forensic interest.
- (b) Recording material at a scene.
- (c) Collection of material from a scene.
- (d) Containers and labelling.
- (e) Documentation.
- (f) Transport of material.
- (g) Storage of material.
- (h) Security of material.
- (i) Retrieving material from storage.
- (j) Documenting and tracking the location of material.

2 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**2.1 Referenced documents**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 3864 | Medical refrigeration equipment—For the storage of blood and blood products |
| 5239 | Examination of ignitable liquids in fire debris |
| 5388 | Forensic analysis |
| 5388.2 | Part 2: Analysis and examination of material |
| 5483 | Minimizing the risk of contamination in products used to collect and analyse biological material for forensic DNA purposes |

AS/NZS

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| 2213 | Safety in laboratories (series) |
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| 4157 | Handling and destruction of drugs |
|------|-----------------------------------|

ISO

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| 18385 | Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect, store and analyze biological material for forensic purposes—Requirements |
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ISO/IEC

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| 17025 | General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories |
| 31000 | Risk management—Principles and guidelines |