

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Forensic analysis**

**Part 2: Analysis and examination 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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The following are represented on Committee CH-041:

- Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency
- Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society
- Australian Association of Forensic Physicians
- Australian Federal Police
- Consumer Action
- Expertise, Evidence and Law Program, School of Law, University of New South Wales
- National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
- National Institute of Forensic Science
- New South Wales Police Force
- Queensland Police Service
- University of Canberra
- Victoria Police Forensic Services Department
- Victorian Institute Forensic Medicine
- Western Australia Police

Additional Interests:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic and Data Centres
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
- Chemistry Centre of Western Australia
- ESR Forensic Services, New Zealand
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- Forensic Science Services, Tasmania Police
- New South Wales Division of Analytical Laboratories
- New South Wales Police Forensic Services Group
- Northern Territory Police Forensic Science Branch
- Queensland Health, Forensic and Scientific Services
- Queensland Police, Forensic Services Branch
- South Australia Police
- Senior Managers Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 5388.2.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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First published as AS 5388.2—2012.

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Published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 978 1 74342 144 4

## 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 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

5388.2 Part 2: Analysis and examination of material (this Standard)

5388.3 Part 3: Interpretation

5388.4 Part 4: Reporting

This Standard sets out standard practices for the forensic examination and analysis of physical material, in order to obtain results to assist an investigation, with the potential that a conclusion reached may be presented to a court of law or other tribunal. 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. Physical material may be examined in turn by a number of examiners with different areas of expertise.

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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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**Forensic analysis**

**Part 2: Analysis and examination of material**

**1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies requirements for the forensic examination and analysis of physical material from crime scenes, persons and related areas and objects.

This involves one or more of the following steps:

- (a) Recording.
- (b) Sampling.
- (c) Presumptive testing or assessment.
- (d) Instrumental analysis.
- (e) Comparisons.
- (f) Recording results.

NOTE: It should be noted that though the analysis of digital or analogue electronic evidence is excluded from the scope of this Standard, such digital evidence may be accompanied by or contained within physical media or equipment having possible evidential value.

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

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

**AS**

- 5388 Forensic analysis
- 5388.1 Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material
- 5388.3 Part 3: Interpretation
- 5388.4 Part 4: Reporting

**ISO/IEC**

- 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

**Act**

National Measurement Act, 1960, taking into account amendments up to Act No. 137 of 2008. Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

**Codes**

Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (ADG Code), Seventh edition 2007, Commonwealth of Australia

Fundamentals of forensic DNA typing, 2009, J. Butler, Academic Press, Burlington

Evaluation of forensic DNA evidence, 1996, National Research Council, National Academy Press, Washington DC

**Manuals and Guides**

Australasian Guidelines for Digital Imaging Processes, v2, 2004, SMANZFL EESAG