

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Forensic analysis**

**Part 4: Reporting**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CH-041, Forensic Analysis. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 25 March 2013. This Standard was published on 2 May 2013.

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The following are represented on Committee CH-041:

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

Additional Interests:

- Australian Federal Police Forensic and Data Centres
- Commonwealth Attorney General's Department
- Forensic Science South Australia
- New South Wales Police Forensic Services Group
- Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services, Forensic Science Branch
- Queensland Police Service Forensic Services Branch
- Senior Managers of Australia and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories'

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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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## 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 includes the following:

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
- 5388.3 Part 3: Interpretation
- 5388.4 Part 4: Reporting (this Standard)

The objective of this Standard is to provide requirements and recommendations to assist practitioners in the reporting of results and opinions. 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 Commonwealth 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 4: Reporting**

**1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out requirements and recommendations for the reporting of results and opinions, derived from scientific data and observations in the analysis and examination of physical material, for investigative purposes and for use in legal proceedings.

The areas covered by this document include the following:

- (a) Report types.
- (b) Case file and report review.
- (c) Reporting of results.
- (d) Reporting of opinions.

The processes of review and reporting apply to results and opinions.

NOTE: The weighting of opinions is also discussed in AS 5388.3.

Though intended primarily for use in reporting the forensic analysis of physical material, this Standard may also apply to the reporting of the forensic analysis of digital evidence.

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

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
2706	Numerical values—Rounding and interpretation of limiting values
5388	Forensic analysis
5388.1	Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material
5388.2	Part 2: Analysis and examination of material
5388.3	Part 3: Interpretation
ISO/IEC	
17025	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

**2.2 Related documents**

Further information may be found in the following documents:

Keane, PA 2011, *Practice Note CM7 Expert Witnesses in Proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia*, Federal Court of Australia.

Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists 2006, *Code of Ethics*, <http://www.mafs.net/code-of-ethics>

Scientific Working Group on Materials Analysis, January 2009, *Expert reporting guideline*. Forensic Science Communications Vol 11 No 1.

Uniform Civil Procedure Rules (Amendment No 12) 2006 under the Civil Procedure Act 2005, Regulation 31.23—*Code of conduct*.

Uniform Civil Procedure Rules (Amendment No 12) 2006 under the Civil Procedure Act 2005, Schedule 7—*Expert witness code of conduct*.