

Standard for Developmental and Internal Validation of Forensic Serological Methods



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 published standard.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

The testing of samples containing body fluids, stains, or residues related to forensic investigations is routinely performed by forensic science service providers (FSSP) as a precursor to DNA testing. All serological methods used in the analysis must be validated prior to implementation.

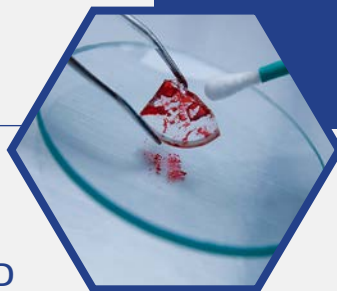
This standard establishes requirements for documented validation studies of forensic serological methods to be conducted and retained by the FSSP.

WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

This standard provides developmental and internal validation requirements to be completed prior to the implementation of forensic serological methods

Validation is necessary to have confidence in the results, demonstrate reliability, and identify any potential limitations.

FSSPs are encouraged to meet this standard.



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

This standard provides direction for conducting and documenting the necessary foundational validation studies prior to the implementation of forensic serological methods by an FSSP. Such studies are required for the characterization of the test procedure, limitations of the method, and identification of influences that may change performance.

This standard also addresses documentation requirements prior to the implementation of a modified serological procedure by an FSSP.

This is a standard of practice. Additional tests beyond those required in the standard may be necessary depending on the testing assays used and the types of samples tested by the FSSP.

This standard does not address the validation of forensic DNA analysis procedures.

