



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.**

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Attn: Accreditation and Proficiency Testing

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors represents more than 600 members of crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers dedicated to providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. The membership represents both private and public institutions from all 50 states in the U.S. and eighteen countries from across the globe. Our mission is to promote the effectiveness of crime laboratory leaders throughout the world by facilitating communication among members, sharing critical information, providing relevant training, promoting crime laboratory accreditation, and encouraging scientific and managerial excellence in the global forensic science community.

ASCLD is dedicated to advancing forensic science through a multitude of initiatives including the National Commission on Forensic Science. The efforts of the Commission are important and have significant implications for the entire criminal justice community. As a result, the ASCLD Board of Directors offers the following comments, recommendations, and impact statements for consideration by the sub-committee on the views document "*Regarding Accreditation Program Requirements*".

ASCLD remains ready to be a continuing resource to assist the Commission and the Department of Justice in the development of these important work products for the forensic science community so that a broader based acceptance and implementation of these products may be realized.

Regards,

ASCLD Board of Directors



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ASCLD Board Comments

Views of the Commission: Regarding Accreditation Program Requirements

The ASCLD Board of Directors has a very long history of supporting accreditation going back more than three decades with the development of the first forensic laboratory accreditation program in the U.S. and has formally advocated for universal accreditation of laboratories since 2008. "ASCLD believes accreditation of ALL forensic science operations is an essential quality component." (ASCLD Board of Directors, 2008) Additionally, ASCLD provided further discussion on the importance of universal accreditation in its statement in 2014. "ASCLD believes the accreditation of forensic providers must be conducted by qualified accrediting entities with expertise developing, utilizing, and enforcing standardized supplemental requirements that are relevant to forensic science providers. Those accrediting entities themselves should be recognized by relevant international accrediting organizations." (ASCLD Board of Directors, 2014)

The ASCLD Board of Directors supports the Commission's views *Regarding Accreditation Program Requirements* and encourages forensic accrediting bodies to incorporate the stated requirements into their accreditation program.

The ASCLD Board of Directors recommends the inclusion of the following statement to the Views document.

The Commission recognizes efforts continue on the development of national and international standards specific to forensic science. In 2015 permanent ISO Technical Committee 272 – Forensic Sciences was created and they are developing standards for forensic analysis specific to the following:

- Part 1: Recognition, recording, collection, and storage of material
- Part 2: Analysis and examination of material
- Part 3: Interpretation
- Part 4: Reporting

Additionally, the Organization for Scientific Area Committees is also reviewing and recommending standards and guidelines for the practice of forensic science in the U.S.



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Once these national and international standards are approved, the Commission recommends accrediting bodies review all applicable standards and adopt them as appropriate for the continual improvement of forensic science in the U.S.

References

- ASCLD Board of Directors. (2008). *The ASCLD Policy Library*. Retrieved from American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors: <http://www.asclد.org/resource-library/asclد-position-statements/>
- ASCLD Board of Directors. (2014). *The ASCLD Policy Library*. Retrieved from The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors: <http://www.asclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ASCLD-Board-Position-on-Accreditation.pdf>