



Colorado Bureau of Investigation

2023 - 17025T - Reassessment

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Data collected on 2023-04-03

ANSI National Accreditation Board

United States

Description

This assessment report summarizes the outcome of the recent accreditation activity. A separate document, the assessment plan, provides information on the type of activity (*e.g.*, reassessment, surveillance activity, scope extension), the date(s) of the activity, the assessment team members, the requirement documents and the scope by discipline that was assessed for each location. The assessment plan, together with this report, provides a complete picture of the accreditation activity.

The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) evaluated the competence of the forensic service provider and conformance with all applicable accreditation requirements for the scope of accreditation listed in the assessment plan. Objective evidence of implementation was assessed. The results of an assessment activity are based on a sample of records, locations, and personnel that were available at the time of the activity. Witnessing is an additional technique used in on-site activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories & ANAB ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Forensic Science Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Requirements (AR 3125) evaluated over the accreditation cycle are summarized in the following broad categories:

General requirements related to the forensic service provider's commitment to impartiality and confidentiality in its activities.

Structural requirements related to the range of activities, management structure, the authority, roles and responsibilities of personnel. Documented procedures which ensure a consistent application of activities and the validity of results.

Resource requirements related to the impartiality of personnel. Requirements for a training program, competency testing, authorizations and ongoing monitoring to ensure the competence of personnel. Facility and security suitability for activities. Records and procedures for equipment to ensure proper functioning and where applicable, establishment of metrological traceability. Requirements for externally provided products and services.

Process requirements related to the handling of test and calibration items in a manner to maintain the integrity of the item. Requirements for chain-of-custody of items to be tested and appropriate methods and procedures. Ensuring the required performance of the methods along with monitoring the validity of the results. Requirements to ensure results are supported by sufficient technical records and are reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously and objectively. Procedures for nonconforming work and a documented process for handling complaints. Requirements related to the laboratory information management system protection and integrity of data and information.

Management system requirements related to policies and objectives appropriate for the scope of activities. Requirements to control internal and external documents and records. Requirements to address risks and opportunities and timely, well-documented corrective actions. Requirements for an internal audit program and management reviews.

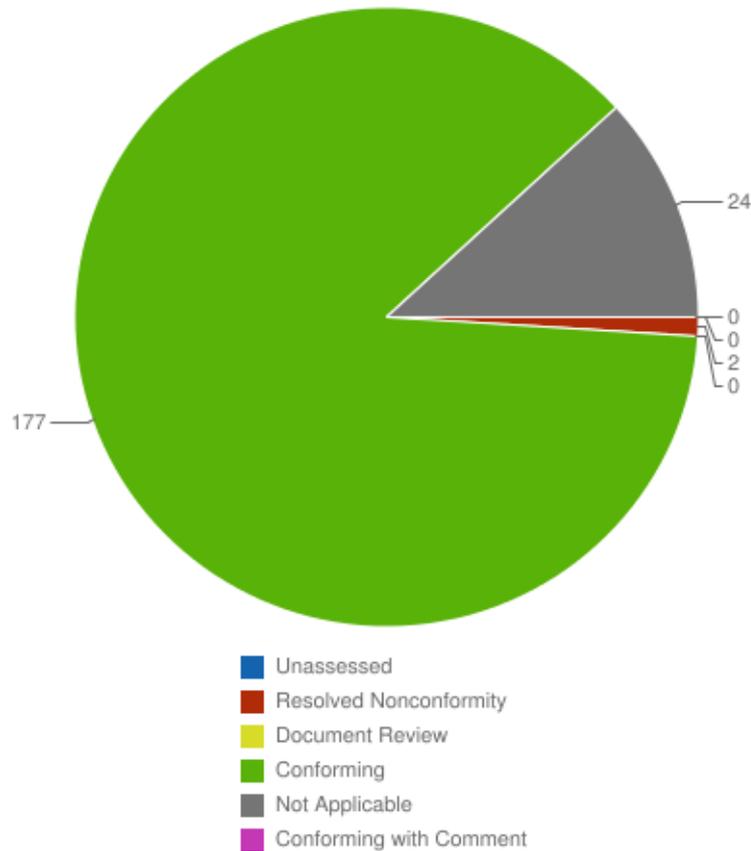
The accreditation activity also evaluates forensic science provider's conformance with their own management system requirements.

ASSESSMENT RESULT:

Based on the assessment techniques and sampling reviewed during the assessment activity, the assessment team found that the forensic service provider demonstrated competence to operate a management system that fulfills all applicable accreditation requirements, including those specified within their management system.

Any comments (opportunities for improvement) or nonconformities identified during this assessment activity are noted below. All nonconformities will be resolved prior to an accreditation decision by ANAB and a summary provided in a subsequent assessment activity report.

Summary of Comments



Audit Comments

7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

7.2.1.1.2 ANAB Accreditation Requirement

Resolved Nonconformity

Requirement

Do all test methods that involve the comparison of an unknown to a known require the evaluation of the unknown item(s) to identify characteristics suitable for comparison and, if applicable, characteristics suitable for statistical rarity calculations, prior to comparison to one or more known item(s)?

ANAB NOTE 1 Characteristics include, but are not limited to, alleles in a DNA profile, friction ridge detail in a latent print, striation detail on a bullet, features of handwriting, or criteria for evaluation of mass spectrometry fragments and ratios in a seized drug sample or a toxicology sample extract.

ANAB NOTE 2 This requirement is not focused on the process of assessing an unknown in order to identify the test item that will be the subject of further comparison. In these circumstances, it may be appropriate to perform a preliminary characterization of the known prior to the assessment of the unknown.

Nonconformity Resolution Workflow

In Firearms examination, technical records could not be provided to support the comparison of an unknown to a known that required the evaluation of the unknown item(s) to identify characteristics suitable for comparison, prior to comparison to one or more known item(s).

Corrective Action Closure Note: An evaluation of the nonconformity to determine the extent and cause was conducted. Root cause determined to be a lack of documentation to demonstrate the evaluations of unknowns prior to comparison of knowns. Firearms Operation Manuals, FIR 10-14 (General Toolmark Examinations), FIR 10-03 (Fired Bullet - Fragment Examination) and FIR 10-02 (Fired Cartridge Case - Fired Shotgun Examination) were updated to require the documentation of all comparisons performed in the discipline. Procedures effective April 28, 2023 reviewed. Reviewed staff acknowledgement of new procedures. Reviewed case records where the comparison of unknowns prior to knowns were properly documented. This nonconformity has been resolved.

7.5 Technical records

7.5.1.3 ANAB Accreditation Requirement

Resolved Nonconformity

Requirement

Are technical records to support a report (including results, opinions, and interpretations) such that, another reviewer possessing the relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities could evaluate what was done and interpret the data?

Nonconformity Resolution Workflow

The laboratory could not provide technical records for serial number restoration and trigger pull examination to support a report (including results, opinions, and interpretations) such that, another reviewer possessing the relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities could evaluate what was done and interpret the data.

Corrective Action Closure Note: An evaluation of the nonconformity to determine the extent and cause was conducted. Regarding the stereoscope, root cause determined to be a limitation of LIMS to capture multiple use of equipment for different analysis. Regarding trigger pull, root cause determined to be lack of procedures and reporting guidelines. Serial Number Restoration Worksheet was updated effective 4/7/23 to add a checkbox to document when the stereomicroscope is used in Serial Number Restoration analysis. Reviewed case records utilizing the updated Serial Number Restoration Worksheet. The stereomicroscope usage was properly documented. Trigger Pull procedure FIR 10.1 Firearm Mechanical Function Examination was updated effective May 22, 2023. Trigger Pull Analysis guidelines were clarified. The reporting guidelines were updated, effective June 1, 2023, to give direction on reporting of trigger pull analysis. A Firearm's Technical Working Group meeting was held April 13, 2023 to discuss trigger pull analysis and documentation. Reviewed case records utilizing the updated trigger pull procedure. This nonconformity has been resolved.