



Following the public comment for *Scientific Working Group for Forensic Toxicology (SWGTOX) Standard on the Accreditation of Forensic Toxicology Laboratories*, the following changes were made to the document:

- General
 - A number of commenters suggested that there was no need for this Standard as most of the topics are covered by an accrediting body.
 - SWGTOX deemed that the standard is necessary due to forensic toxicology specific topics that need to be brought forward to all accrediting bodies.
 - With a narrowed focus on issues that are unique to forensic toxicology laboratories, a number of sections in the standard were deleted.
- Section 1: Introduction
 - Clarified that the focus of this standard is to the accrediting bodies that work in this sector.
- Section 2: Definitions
 - Added: Analyte, Assessment, Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, Internal Audit
 - Deleted: Drug, False Positive, False Negative, Revocation of Accreditation, Supplemental Document, and Suspension of Accreditation
 - Modified wording for clarity
- Section 3: Sub-Disciplines within SWGTOX
 - Moved information in this section to the section on mandatory accreditation
- Section 4: Mandatory Accreditation
 - No change
- Section 5: Basis of Accreditation
 - Revised to require recognition of the accrediting body
 - Revised to require that the accreditation program be based on a relevant ISO Standard
 - Revised wording regarding amplification/supplemental document to require the incorporation of applicable SWGTOX Standards into the accreditation requirements.
- Section 6: Length of Accreditation Cycle

- Decreased the on-site assessment interval to a 2 year maximum regardless of the accreditation cycle allowed by the accrediting body.
 - SWGTOX received a number of comments on this topic. Comments received were both positive and negative regarding a more frequent interval of assessment. A number of commenters expressed concern that a maximum interval of 3 years, as proposed in the public comment version of the standard, would exclude many of the accrediting bodies working in this sector. An accrediting body sets the maximum interval for the assessment process but can comply with the needs of the customer. Comments were also received that discussed the financial impact of more frequent assessments and how the proposed three year interval was not in alignment with the two year interval that DNA laboratories must comply with for the National DNA Index (NDIS) program causing an additional burden for multi-discipline forensic laboratories. After weighing all comments, the SWGTOX committee voted to adopt a two year cycle for accreditation based on the frequency of changes in technology, methods, analytes, and matrices in this discipline. The volume of workload was also a consideration as was aligning forensic toxicology with the other forensic discipline, DNA, which at this time mandates a more frequent interval of accreditation for laboratories that participate in the NDIS program.
- Section 7: Internal Audits
 - No significant change.
- Section 8: Scope of Accreditation
 - Revised wording to identify which matrices are to be considered separately for a scope of accreditation within the stated sub-disciplines of forensic toxicology.
 - Revised wording to include minimum requirements for the scope of accreditation for the calibration of breath alcohol measuring instruments and breath alcohol reference material.
- Section 9: Laboratory Proficiency Test Requirements
 - Deleted from this standard as this topic will be covered by a separate SWGTOX standard.
- Section 10: External Assessor Qualifications
 - Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.
- Section 11: Assessment of the Laboratory's Work Product
 - Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.
- Section 12: Addressing Deficiencies Identified During an Assessment

- Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.
- Section 13: Accreditation Report
 - Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.
- Section 14: Accreditation Status
 - Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.
- Section 15: Confidentiality
 - Deleted as nothing unique to forensic toxicology.