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| Preparing Authority: Brittney Rollison |  P115 - Technical Consensus Decisions from the Forensic Examination Advisory Committee | Publication Date: 02/01/21 |
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This document has been created and reviewed by the A2LA Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC). It provides a summary of consensus decisions voted on and approved by the FEAC for use by forensic organizations.

ISO/IEC 17020

- 1.0 Annex A of ISO/IEC 17020 describes the independence requirements for inspection bodies. For clarification, the FEAC has determined Type A, B and C to be defined as follows as it applies to forensic inspection units:
 - 1.1 Type A: These organizations perform site examination, evidence collection, transport, storage and/or inspection (e.g. fingerprint analysis) at the request of the customer (e.g. prosecution, police agency, private citizen). They do not participate in the investigation (e.g. interview suspects, victims) other than to provide their results/reports to the customer.
 - 1.2 Type B: These organizations are included as part of the investigative team and include staff that could be considered a customer (e.g. an individual(s) that review or make use of the inspection results to further the investigation).
 - 1.3 Type C: These organizations are included as part of the investigative team (Type B), but are also available to other customers (e.g. other jurisdictions or private citizens) (Type A).
- 2.0 Requirement 7.3 FI1.4 in [R318 - Specific Requirements - Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection](#) says that examination records shall be paginated using a page numbering system which indicates the total number of pages. For clarification, this applies to complete, printed, and final examination records.
- 3.0 Requirement 7.3 FI1.6(b) in [R318 - Specific Requirements - Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection](#) says that each technical review shall be carried out by personnel deemed competent to perform the inspections being reviewed. Competence requirements for inspection body personnel and contract employees are defined by the organization per clause 6.1.1. If an organization says a technical reviewer can be either a currently or previously authorized and proficiency-tested person (*if proficiency testing is available*), that would be acceptable. If the technical reviewer is not currently authorized or proficiency tested, the requirements for monitoring the competence of the technical reviewer would need to be defined and implemented per clause 6.1.5. For subcontractors (i.e. those not under the inspection body's management system), the applicable requirements for competence can be found in clauses 6.3.1 (see NOTE 3 for clarification) and 6.3.4.

In some disciplines, technologies and/or methodologies may change more frequently than others. While it is beneficial to utilize a technical reviewer who is authorized in the current technologies and/or methodologies, the risk associated with utilizing a reviewer not authorized in current technologies and/or methodologies needs to be determined by the inspection body.

ISO/IEC 17025

- 1.0 Requirement 7.5 F1.5 in [R221 - Specific Requirements - Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Testing](#) says that examination records shall be paginated using a page numbering system that indicates the total number of pages. For clarification, this applies to complete, printed, and final examination records.
- 2.0 Requirement 7.7 F1.1(b) in [R221 - Specific Requirements - Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Testing](#) says that each technical review shall be conducted by personnel competent to perform the examinations or calibrations being reviewed. Competence requirements for laboratory personnel and contract employees are defined by the organization per clause 6.2.2. If an organization says a technical reviewer can be either a currently or previously authorized and proficiency-tested person (*if proficiency testing is available*), that would be acceptable. If the technical reviewer is not currently authorized or proficiency tested, the requirements for monitoring the competence of the technical reviewer would need to be defined and implemented per clause 6.2.5(f). For subcontractors (i.e. those not under the laboratory's management system), competence and monitoring criteria need to be identified per clauses 6.6.3(c) and 6.6.2(b), respectively.

In some disciplines, technologies and/or methodologies may change more frequently than others. While it is beneficial to utilize a technical reviewer who is authorized in the current technologies and/or methodologies, the risk associated with utilizing a reviewer not authorized in current technologies and/or methodologies needs to be determined by the laboratory.

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

| Date | Description |
|----------|--|
| 10/14/19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Updated Header/Footer to current version➤ Updated format and font for consistency |
| 11/24/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Added Section 2.0 under ISO/IEC 17020➤ Added a Section for ISO/IEC 17025 |
| 02/01/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Added Section 3.0 under ISO/IEC 17020➤ Added Section 2.0 under ISO/IEC 17025 |

