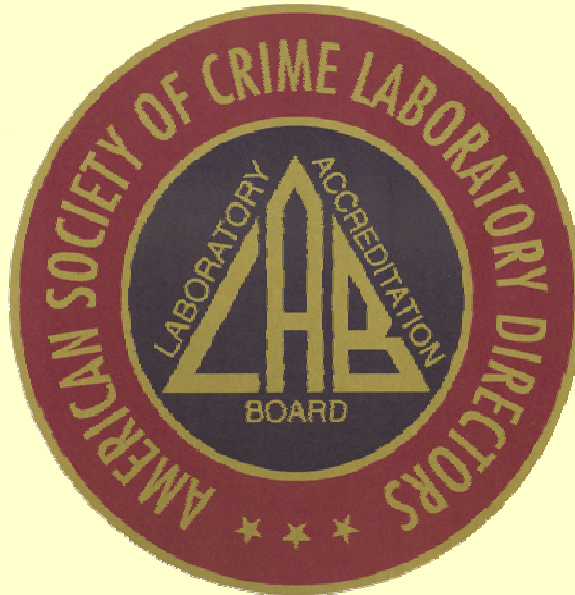


***American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
Laboratory Accreditation Board
(ASCLD/LAB)***



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American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board

- *ASCLD/LAB is a separate corporate organization from **ASCLD**.*
- *The primary mission of ASCLD/LAB is the accreditation of crime laboratories.*
- *The Delegate Assembly has ultimate oversight of **ASCLD/LAB**.*

Organization of ASCLD/LAB

- *A professional staff is employed by the Board of Directors to administer the day-to-day operations of the accreditation program.*
- *Trained volunteer inspectors from accredited laboratories are the heart of the accreditation program.*

327 Laboratories Accredited by ASCLD/LAB as of 12-29-06

(24 International Program, 303 Legacy Program)

- *180 State*
- *98 Local*
- *21 Federal*
- *18 Private*
- *10 International*
- *23 New Laboratories currently in process of gaining accreditation for the first time*
- *62 Laboratories in process of renewing accreditation*

ASCLD/LAB Objectives

- *To improve the quality of laboratory services provided to the Criminal Justice System.*
- *To develop and maintain criteria which can be used by the laboratory to assess its level of performance and strengthen its operation.*
- *To provide an independent, impartial and objective system by which laboratories can benefit from a total operational review.*
- *To offer to the general public and to users of laboratory services a means of identifying those laboratories which have demonstrated that they meet established standards.*

Disciplines Accredited by ASCLD/LAB

- Controlled Substances
- Toxicology
- Trace Evidence
- Biology
- Firearms/Toolmarks
- Latent Prints
- Questioned Documents
- Crime Scene (optional)
- Digital & Multimedia Evidence

Who Conducts the On-Site Inspection?

A Team of Inspectors who are/have:

- Technically Competent to Review the Work Performed by the Applicant Laboratory
- Successfully Completed the ASCLD/LAB Inspector Training Program
- Employed in Accredited Laboratories
- The size of the inspection team is based upon the size and complexity of the Applicant Laboratory or Laboratory System

Major Processes Which Must Be In Place

- Procedures to Protect Evidence from Loss, Cross-Transfer, Contamination and/or Deleterious Change
- Validated and Documented Technical Procedures
- Use of Appropriate Controls and Standards
- Calibration Procedures
- Complete Documentation of All Evidence Examination
- Documented Training Program with Competency Testing
- Technical Review of a Portion of Each Examiners Work Product
- Testimony Monitoring of All Who Testify
- Comprehensive Proficiency Testing Program

Review of Individual Case Files

- The laboratory should have pre-selected a minimum of five (5) cases for each analyst in the laboratory.
- This should not prevent Inspectors from requesting additional cases files for review if a more representative cross-section of cases is desired.

Interviewing Laboratory Personnel

- Interviewing laboratory personnel is one of the most important parts of the inspection process.
- An attempt should be made to interview as many of the professional and support personnel as time allows.

What accreditation isn't....

- Will not guarantee error free forensic examinations. . .

The human factor

What accreditation is....

- Provides the framework for a quality management system.
 - Procedures to Protect Evidence
 - Validated and Documented Technical Procedures
 - Use of Controls and Standards & Calibration Procedures
 - Complete Documentation of All Evidence Examination

What accreditation is....

- Continuing. . .
 - Documented Training Program with Competency Testing
 - Technical Review of a Portion of Each Examiners Work Product
 - Testimony Monitoring of All Who Testify
 - Comprehensive Proficiency Testing Program

When something goes wrong. . .

- Procedures in place to implement corrective action. May include, but not limited to:
 - Determine root cause
 - Notify customer
 - Removal from case work pending remedial training, competency testing
 - Review of case work

*Laboratories have become
proactive. . .*

- The establishment of robust quality systems
 - Nonconformities in case work during technical reviews
 - Proficiency test discrepancies
 - Implementing programs for verification of identifications and associations

Not a Good Old Boys Club. . .

- Dry Labing Determined Through File Reviews
- Examiner Competency Revealed Through Examiner Interviews.
- Critical Evidence Issue Discovered Through Observations.
- Security Concerns in Laboratory Facilities

ASCLD/LABs Hope . . .

- Recommend
Mandatory
Accreditation!

To Assist in Your Process

- ASCLD/LAB would provide an opportunity to observe an assessment
- The FBI Laboratory invites you to observe our upcoming assessment