

## Standard Test Method for the Forensic Examination and Testing of Firearms



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

This standard test method establishes procedures for the forensic examination and testing of a firearm by firearm and toolmark examiners or technicians. Following these procedures, an examiner or technician will be able to conduct, document, and report the examination and testing of a firearm.

The procedures in this standard test method are comprehensive and can be applied to the examination and testing of a firearm for any forensic purpose.

This standard is intended to be used alongside ANSI/ASB 060, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2021; [ANSI/ASB 068, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., 2020](#); and ANSI/ASB 107, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022.

### WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Adherence to the standard ensures that the examination and testing of a firearm is thorough, adequately documented, and appropriately reported.

Thorough testing is necessary to generate reliable results.

Adequate documentation is essential to permit reproducibility of testing.

Appropriate reporting ensures that all relevant information is conveyed to stakeholders.

Forensic science service providers (FSSPs) engaged in the examination and testing of firearms are encouraged to meet this standard.

### HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard test method contains all the key elements for the forensic examination and testing of a firearm. It may assist FSSPs in developing an internal procedure.

Key elements of this standard test method include test preparations, safety, evidence handling, preliminary examination, physical examination, barrel and/or overall length, mechanical function testing, trigger pull, non-functional firearms, test firing, documentation, and reporting.

This standard test method recognizes that differing levels of examination may be required depending on the intended use of the information provided by the examination. FSSP policy may inform examiners/technicians which steps in the examination and testing process are appropriate, such as when testing firearms for the sole purpose of function or when producing samples solely for individual characteristic database entry.

This standard is limited to the examination and testing of a firearm only. It does not address the comparison of ammunition components (e.g., bullets and cartridge cases) to firearms, which is the subject of other standards.

