

OSAC REVIEW / SPRING-SUMMER 2025 (OSAC = Organization of Scientific Area Committees)

NAME OSAC UPDATE #18: ANSI/ASB Standard 119, 1st edition 2021

Standard for the Analytical Scope and Sensitivity of Forensic Toxicological Testing of Blood in Medicolegal Death Investigations

The draft of this standard was developed by the Toxicology Subcommittee of OSAC. It completed the standards development process in the Toxicology Consensus body of the AAFS Standards Board (ASB).

(Like all OSAC developed Standards, Best Practices, and Guides, these are voluntary and separate from NAME standards and accreditation.)

As part of the standards development process, this document was subject to an open comments period with adjudication of comments. Here is the link to the comments/adjudication spreadsheet:

<https://www.nist.gov/document/asb-119comment-adjudication>

This is a very brief summary of *ANSI/ASB Standard for the analytical Scope and Sensitivity of Forensic Toxicological Testing of Blood in Medicolegal Death Investigations*, and as such may leave out or misinterpret important details.

See link to full document (below). A link to the checklist is attached below, but mostly of use for toxicology laboratories trying to implement the standard.

Value: NAME accreditation Toxicology checklist item E2k: “Does the office have a written policy in place to assure that the scope of toxicology panels requested for its cases is reviewed within, at a minimum, every 2 years with documentation? This toxicology standard provides a framework for that determination and documentation. (Obviously, this standard also has application to medical examiner offices with in-house toxicology laboratories.) If a toxicology laboratory complies with ANSI/ASB Standard 119, they can apply to OSAC to become an “implementer”, and that status could be used as part of NAME accreditation documentation.

Scope:

The standard sets the minimum requirements for target analytes and analytical sensitivity for toxicological testing of blood samples collected as part of death investigations.

Two excellent tables are provided on pages 3 and 4:

Table 1—Required Minimum Analytical Scope and Sensitivity for Testing of Blood in Suspected Toxicological Cause of Death Determination

Table 2—Required Minimum Analytical Scope and Sensitivity for Testing of Blood in Cases with a Known Anatomical Cause of Death

Full Document:

<https://www.aafs.org/asb-standard/standard-analytical-scope-and-sensitivity-forensic-toxicological-testing-blood-0>

Checklist:

https://www.aafs.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Toxicology_ANSIASB%20119_Checklist%20V1.2.xlsx