AS 5388.1—2012
(Incorporating Amendment No. 1)

AS 5388.1—2012

Australian STANDARD

Forensic analysis

Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material

STANDARDS Australia

This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee CH-041, Forensic Analysis. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 May 2012.
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The following are represented on Committee CH-041:

- Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society
- Australian Association of Forensic Physicians
- Australian Federal Police
- Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency
- Consumer Action
- Expertise, Evidence and Law Program, School of Law, University of New South Wales
- National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
- National Institute of Forensic Science
- New South Wales Police Force
- Queensland Police Service
- University of Canberra
- Victoria Police Forensic Services Department
- Victorian Institute Forensic Medicine
- Western Australia Police

Additional Interests:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic and Data Centres
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
- Chemistry Centre of Western Australia
- ESR Forensic Services, New Zealand
- Forensic Science Services, Tasmania Police
- Forensic Science South Australia
- New South Wales Division of Analytical Laboratories
- New South Wales Police Forensic Services Group
- Northern Territory Police Forensic Science Branch
- Queensland Health, Forensic and Scientific Services
- Queensland Police, Forensic Services Branch
- South Australia Police
- Senior Managers Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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(Incorporating Amendment No. 1)

Australian Standard®

Forensic analysis

Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CH-041, Forensic Analysis. This Standard is the result of a consensus among the representatives of the Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (October 2017). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

This Standard is part of a series which, when complete, will include—

AS	
5388	Forensic analysis
5388.1	Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material (this Standard)
5388.2	Part 2: Analysis and examination of material
5388.3	Part 3: Interpretation
5388.4	Part 4: Reporting

The purpose of this Standard is to set out standard practices for the recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of physical material from crime scenes in order to preserve its integrity for forensic purposes. The provisions of this document are aimed at qualified personnel with demonstrated competence in the use of appropriate scientific procedures and techniques in a forensic context.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the support provided by the Attorney General’s Department in the development of the Forensic Analysis series (AS 5388) as an Australian Government initiative.

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FOREWORD

The principal focus of the document is the crime scene. That crime scene may be the actual location where the crime took place or a secondary location such as a car or dwelling or any other object which may yield physical material of value to the investigation or any subsequent judicial process.

Persons involved in crime, whether perpetrator, witness or victim, may also be possible sources of relevant physical material. Examples of such material would be samples from the sexual assault victim, post-mortem examination samples, blood spattered on a witness or broken glass on the clothing of the suspect.

Impressions such as tool marks are physical material in the same way as bloodstains, hairs and fibres, drug samples, broken glass and other tangible objects.

A1 Although this Standard does not address procedures for the recovery of data from digital storage media, it is important to remember that the storage medium itself may yield physical material such as fingerprints or DNA. The forensic examiner should bear this in mind during the recording and handling of such material to maximize potential evidence recovery.

The response to a crime will depend on the circumstances of the case. Accordingly, the resources and facilities required by and/or available to an investigator will vary. Some aspects of crime scene examination described in this document may apply in practice only to more serious crime. Nevertheless, this Standard attempts to provide general principles that apply to greater or lesser extent at all scenes.

This Standard calls for the use of procedures that may be hazardous or injurious to health, if adequate provisions are not taken.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Forensic analysis

Part 1: Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of physical material from crime scenes in order to preserve its integrity for forensic purposes, and covers the following processes:

(a) Recognizing material of forensic interest.

(b) Recording material at a scene.

(c) Collection of material from a scene.

(d) Containers and labelling.

(e) Documentation.

(f) Transport of material.

(g) Storage of material.

(h) Security of material.

(i) Retrieving material from storage.

(j) Documenting and tracking the location of material.

2 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

2.1 Referenced documents

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS
3864 Medical refrigeration equipment—For the storage of blood and blood products

5239 Examination of ignitable liquids in fire debris

5388 Forensic Analysis
5388.2 Part 2: Analysis and examination of material

5483 Minimizing the risk of contamination in products used to collect and analyse biological material for forensic DNA purposes

AS/NZS
2243 Safety in laboratories (series)

4757 Handling and destruction of drugs

A1 ISO
18385 Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect, store and analyze biological material for forensic purposes—Requirements

ISO/IEC
17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

31000 Risk management—Principles and guidelines