

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Amendment No. 1

to

## AS 5388.1—2012

## Forensic analysis

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

## REVISED TEXT

The 2012 edition of AS 5388.1 is amended as follows; the amendments should be inserted in the appropriate places.

*SUMMARY:* This Amendment applies to the Foreword, Clauses 2.1, 2.2, 4.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4.2, 7.4.1, 7.4.3, 8.1, 8.1.3, 8.1.7 and 8.5.4, and Appendix F.

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AMDT  
No. 1  
OCT  
2017

**Foreword**

Fourth paragraph, *delete* the first sentence and *replace* with the following:

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.

AMDT  
No. 1  
OCT  
2017

**Clause 2.1**

1 *Insert* the following before the ISO/IEC list:

ISO

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

2 *Delete* the second entry under Manuals and Codes and *replace* with the following:

2013 Australia and New Zealand Guidelines for Digital Imaging Processes, Australia  
New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency National Institute of Forensic Science

AMDT  
No. 1  
OCT  
2017

**Clause 2.2**

1 *Delete* the first entry and *add* under AS/NZS as ‘AS/NZS 1337.1 Personal eye protection, Part 1: Eye and face protectors for occupational applications’.

2 *Delete* the sixth entry AS 2030.

3 *Delete* the seventh entry and *add* under AS/NZS as ‘AS/NZS 2161 Occupational Protective Gloves’ (series).

4 *Delete* the eighth entry ‘AS 2375’.

5 *Delete* the 12th entry ‘AS 3765’.

6 *Delete* the 16th entry ‘1336’ and *replace* with ‘AS/NZS 1335 Eye and face protection—Guidelines’.

7 *Delete* the 18th entry ‘ISO 15189 Medical laboratories—Particular requirements for quality and competence’ and *replace* with ‘ISO 15189 Medical laboratories—Requirements for quality and competence’.

- 8 *Delete* ‘Field Application Document, Supplementary Requirements for Accreditation in the Field of Forensic Science (including Parentage Testing), NATA’ and *replace* with ‘Forensic Science ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, NATA’.

AMDT  
No. 1  
OCT  
2017

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## Clause 4.2

First paragraph, *delete* text and *replace* with the following:

Forensic evidence depends upon investigators, forensic practitioners and health professionals recognizing physical material at a scene as having potential investigative or evidentiary value. This in turn relies on the training and experience of the personnel involved. Information from the investigator, complainant and/or witnesses may assist in forming an initial hypothesis of what material may be relevant but shall not inhibit the formation of alternative hypotheses.

AMDT  
No. 1  
OCT  
2017

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## Clause 6.1

*Delete* the clause text and *replace* with the following:

Collecting material at a scene for forensic examination often involves dealing with hazardous material. Risks shall be appropriately assessed and precautions shall be proportionate to the risks involved. The guiding principle is the protection of oneself and others. In all cases, local jurisdictional OHS requirements shall apply.

Unidentified material shall be handled in such a manner as to avoid ingestion, inhalation and dermal exposure.

Should the forensic practitioner suspect the presence of large quantities of flammable material or the presence of highly toxic, highly contagious, highly irritant, nuclear, radioactive or explosive material, the examination shall be suspended until appropriately trained specialist staff (such as specialist clandestine laboratory, Hazmat, CBRN, nuclear or bomb/explosive examiners) are notified and attend. In these instances, an emergency or contingency plan shall be developed. Consideration should be given to the possible presence of asbestos.

There are situations where suitably qualified personnel may be required in order for the examiner to safely enter a scene, including the following:

- (a) Where firearms are encountered.  
NOTE: They should be rendered safe by a person with appropriate expertise and labelled as rendered safe.
- (b) Where buildings have structural damage.  
NOTE: The building should be declared safe by an approved building engineer or other authorized person.
- (c) Where electrical hazards are suspected.  
NOTE: The power supply should be disconnected by suitably authorized persons.
- (d) When examining the scene of a train death.  
NOTE: The examiner should be escorted by railway personnel and the line closed.
- (e) When attending the scene of an industrial death.  
NOTE: Any equipment or machinery involved should be turned off and disconnected from the power supply and all hazards rendered safe by suitably authorized persons.
- (f) When conducting examinations in a prison, security staff may be required.
- (g) Suspected or actual bomb scenes may require appropriate equipment and trained operatives.