

Deadline of Submission of Comments: 13-Feb-23
Document Number: ANSI/ASB Std 148
Document Title: Standard for Personal Identification in Forensic Anthropology

#	Section	Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolution
6	3.9 Terms and Definitions	T	"An" is grammatically incorrect because the term "exclusionary" has been removed.	Change "An" to "A"	Accept
8	4.1	T	REDLINED version says "All documentation should be of sufficient detail to allow for independent review and interpretation." Not clear what sufficient detail would be (e.g. what features?) or what independent is (blind verification?).	make clear that independent means blind verification by 2nd reviewer, and what "sufficient detail" would mean.	Accept with modifications; used the following wording: "All documentation should be of sufficient detail to allow for blind reanalysis by a second practitioner, review by internal and/or external reviewers, or evaluation of the interpretations by an external party."
3	4.2.1.1 General	E	The sentence stating "Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish a process to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications" might benefit from being expanded on further.	Perhaps give an example of "internal" and/or "external" sources of bias to make it clearer for the reader on what that means in this context. Alternatively, the standard could cite an article, in which these are explained in full, such as Dror (2020) https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.analchem.0c00704 or Quigley-McBride et al. (2022) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsism.2022.100216 We appreciate that the specific external and internal sources of bias will vary depending on the particular method being used or the analysis being conducted, as well as the context in which the analysis needs to take place, providing some examples in parentheses (e.g., taking part of DNA results from skeletal remains if available prior to the analysis being conducted) or pointing to somewhere where this information can be found reduces the burden on the reader/analyst.	Reject. Anthropology standards do not include citations. Internal and external bias are generally understood within scientific disciplines. Discussion of biases should be undertaken in a dedicated standard.
4	4.2.1.1 General	E	"Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish a process to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications." should be edited to reflect that multiple processes and procedures are involved in adequately mitigating bias effects.	We suggest: "Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish procedures designed to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications." "Procedures" could also be "processes", but it should be plural. In addition, we suggest adding a sentence explaining that you not only need to establish processes and procedures, but analysts need to document those procedures and the data/information used in detail too. One simple and practical way to facilitate documentation of information and decision making/judgments is described in Quigley-McBride et al. (2020) - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsism.2022.100216	Accept with modifications; used the following wording: "Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish and document procedures designed to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications."

7	4.2.1.1 General	E	The language in this section - "The goal of scientific identification methods is to systematically establish the consistency of antemortem and postmortem data in sufficient detail to conclude that they are from the same or are not from the same individual." should be qualified to reflect that identification/individualization methods are rarely able to say for certain that the data indicates that it could be from no other person.	We suggest: "The goal of scientific identification methods is to systematically establish the consistency of antemortem and postmortem data in sufficient detail to justify the conclusion that they are from the same individual to the reasonable exclusion of all other possibilities/all other possible individuals. "	Accept with modifications. It is not possible to consider all other possible individuals as population level data is not currently available for all features used in comparative radiography.
1	4.2.1.2	T	dental features, including morphology, restorations, pathological conditions, or missing teeth.	A caveat should be added regarding the evaluation of dental features for ID. This should be done by an Odontologist. Anthropologists should not be performing dental identifications, nor should dentist be estimating the biological profile or performing non-dental radiographic identifications. The anthropologist may determine inclusions or exclusions based on the mentioned dental criteria, but it is not best practice for us to make a dental ID.	Reject. Ideally all dental identifications would be completed by a forensic odontologist, it is not possible for many practitioners/jurisdictions. The last paragraph is Section 4.1 indicates that odontologists (other other experts) should be consulted when identification features are outside of the anthropologist's expertise.
2	4.2.1.2	T	Comparative Medical Imaging Identification by comparative medical imaging shall use antemortem imaging from the medical/dental records of the suspected decedent, and postmortem imaging that simulate the clinical imaging in scope and projection.	The forensic anthropologist should examine the postmortem radiographs separately from the antemortem radiographs prior to making the comparison between them.	Accept. This is already what the document states.
5	4.2.3.1 Personal Effects and Other Evidence	E	The sentence stating "Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish a process to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications " would benefit to add that documentation of such process needs to be included as well	We suggest: "Analysts should consider possible internal and external sources of bias and establish procedures designed to mitigate these influences prior to conducting scientific identifications." "Procedures" could also be "processes", but it should be plural. In addition, we suggest adding a sentence explaining that you not only need to establish processes and procedures, but analysts need to document those procedures and the data/information used in detail too. One simple and practical way to facilitate documentation of information and decision making/judgments is described in Quigley-McBride et al. (2020) - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsisyn.2022.100216	Accept with modifications. The sentence in question was modified to include the need to document procedures designed to mitigate bias.
9	Bibliography	T	The standard still lacks a single reference to support its claims and recommendations.	Provide references and cite them in the body of the standard to support specific claims and recommendations.	Reject. Anthropology standards do not include references.