



ASB Interest Categories

Academia

Accredited institutions of learning, especially those with curricula or programs relating to forensic sciences (organizational membership). This category also includes individuals working as instructors or researchers at such institutions; it does not include non-teaching students or retired individuals (who fall under general interest).

Consumer Groups

Groups and organizations representing consumer interests including safety, health, and environment (organizational membership). This interest category is intended to be for policy advocates and organizations such as prosecutor organizations, victims' rights organizations, defendant rights and assistance organizations, and similar groups.

General Interest

This category includes legal staff, judges and lawyers, retired persons, and students, all as individual members. It also includes, as organizational membership, representatives such as from Standards Developing Organizations. Other individuals and groups that do not fall under the other interest category definitions are included in this interest category.

Laboratories and/or Testing Facilities

Non-governmental laboratories and other testing facilities that do forensic-related analyses, especially those that perform analyses at the request of law enforcement or government (organizational membership); excludes industry laboratories and testing facilities related to product development, which are covered in the Producers category.

Producers

Industries or companies that design, manufacture, or otherwise produce products impacted by the standards activity (organizational membership).

Subject Matter Experts

Subject matter specialists or specialists from discipline specific organizations, who shall have qualifications based on the completion of an educational and/or training program commensurate with current nationally recognized standards for the specific discipline if available (individual membership – cannot be organizational). This may include: statistics, probability, metadata analysis, cross-disciplinary research, and other specific knowledge areas that may be requested by a particular consensus body.

Note that this is a self-selected interest category and applying to or participation on the Consensus Body in this interest category does not in any way imply AAFS or ASB endorsement of you as a subject matter expert.



User/Government

This category includes all government organizations and employees who are not lawyers, legal staff or judges, or individuals who apply as subject matter experts (see definition of that interest category). It includes (but is not limited to) government laboratory staff, analysts, and researchers. This category is primarily designed to provide for organizational membership of the government entity, but it may include individuals employed by the government at any level (federal, state, local, tribal, foreign). Persons whose role as a government employee is only when called up to serve (such as in a disaster situation) are not covered by this interest category. This category does not include contractors to the government – who are covered in the user/industry interest category. Membership may be individual or organizational.

User/Industry

Private sector industries, companies, groups, and/or professionals impacted by the standards; including industry laboratories and testing facilities such as product testing laboratories or developmental testing facilities not covered under laboratories and/or testing facilities (organizational membership). Included in this category are medical and dental offices which are impacted due to the need to provide data in support of forensic work undertaken in conformance with the standard(s) developed by the consensus body.