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Do you have an interesting case or question you would like to share? Email us at nikkib@aabb.org

RT Standards 11th Edition FAQ's

5.2.3.5 Samples for immigration and citizenship testing cases shall be accepted only if the case is initiated by a facility accredited by AABB for relationship testing activities.

Can an accredited laboratory still use the services of a third party administrator for immigration cases?

The AABB-accredited facility must maintain control over the entire testing process for immigration cases. That is, the petitioner must specifically request the collection and testing from the accredited laboratory. The accredited laboratory is then responsible for scheduling the collections, the collection, and testing of the samples. The laboratory may use a collection site that is not owned by the laboratory as long as the laboratory has an agreement with the collection site, schedules the collection, and approves the integrity of the collected sample. For further information on immigration requirements, see the United States Department of State website at <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/types/family/dna-test-procedures.html>

5.1.2.6 Proficiency testing, whether graded or not graded, shall be representative of the cases the laboratory performs, including standard trios, single parent, and family studies (reconstruction cases).

Does this mean our laboratory must perform the paper challenge even if we do not perform any relationship calculations other than parentage?

For the relationship testing laboratory checking that both the testing and the calculations are accurate is an important part of quality control. Therefore proficiency testing should reflect the

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types of cases the laboratory tests and calculates. Currently the CAP proficiency testing program provides a mechanism to compare allele calls and calculations to other laboratories. The CAP proficiency testing provides graded proficiency testing for standard trios and an ungraded paper challenge that covers various family studies (reconstruction cases). If a laboratory is performing family studies, the laboratory should participate in the paper challenge in order to be proficiency tested in this area. Documentation of review of the paper challenge results should be kept. Single parent calculations are not currently routinely evaluated by CAP. One mechanism of checking the single parent studies is to recalculate tested trios and compare the results. Typically, a lower combined paternity index is expected when a parent is missing. Hand calculating a single parent case to evaluate the laboratory's computer calculations would also be documentation of checking this single parent calculation.

6.1.4 Review of all technical policies, processes, and procedures shall be performed by the laboratory director at a minimum of once every 2 years.

Can the director review of policies and procedures be delegated?

The 10th edition required an annual review, the change in the 11th edition is to review every two years at minimum. Review can be performed more often if the facility policy requires it. If switching from an annual review to a review every two years, please be sure that the change is reflected in all associated policies and procedures. Since "or designee" is not specified, this standard does not allow for a designee to perform this director responsibility.

6.4.4 The laboratory shall participate in data collection and submission for the AABB Relationship Testing Annual Report through the provision of requested data.

We do not want our volume information to be public knowledge. Our laboratory has not reported this information in the past, why is it important now?

The AABB Annual Report is accessed by numerous agencies to obtain information on trends and technological advances in the field of human identity testing. Thus, it is important for all laboratories participating in the accreditation program to actively assist the AABB in providing accurate data as to the size and scope of relationship testing activities. Some laboratories have shown a reluctance to share some or all of the requested information with AABB, citing confidentiality concerns. All laboratories should know that the information being requested is stripped of identifiers by the AABB before being sent out to

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volunteers for tabulation into the Annual Report. The RT SPU feels that this is sufficient to protect the business interests of the laboratories. Any laboratory with a dissenting opinion to this standard or this guidance has the option to provide feedback during the public comment periods of the standards. Alternatively, laboratories that cannot or will not provide the required data will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of their external assessments.

The provision of non-legal data is optional (requested but not required), as AABB does not regulate non-legal testing activities. The RT SPU wishes to stress that this is an age of rapid change in technology, the scope of genetic testing, and larger concerns beyond the strictly scientific, eg, immigration issues. As such, the provision of all requested data serves the best interests of the human identity testing field.



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WANTED

Audio Conference Content

Would you like to repurpose your old talks or presentations?

Share your content as part of AABB's 2014 RT Audio Conference Series.

Please let us know if you have given a talk or presentation in the last 2-3 years on a topic that you think may be of interest to the relationship testing community. Topics of interest may include but are not limited to calculations, new technologies, expert systems, court room basics, forensics, DNA etc. If you decide to submit your content, you can choose to moderate the audio conference or we can assign a speaker for you.

For more information or to submit your content, contact Nikki Bass at nikkib@aabb.org

Articles

Do you have an interesting case or question you would like to share through this newsletter? Or is there a topic or issue you would like us to write about? Email us at nikkib@aabb.org

RTAPU or RTSPU Member

- ❖ Are you interested in ensuring that assessment/audit procedures are in consistent with AABB policies established by the AABB Accreditation Program Committee?
- ❖ Are you interested in working with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and/or the Dept. of State as it relates to RT?

If these issues are of interest to you, the **Relationship Testing Accreditation Program Unit** would like to have you as a member.

- ❖ Are you currently an AABB Member?
- ❖ Would you like to be involved in creating and revising the Relationship Testing Standards?
- ❖ Would you like to be involved in creating and revising the Guidance for the Standards?

If these issues are of interest to you, the **Relationship Testing Standards Program Unit** would like to have you as a member. To get involved, please contact Nikki Bass at the AABB National Office at nikkib@aabb.org.

The AABB Relationship
Testing Annual Report
Summary

To obtain a FREE copy

JUST CLICK:

<http://www.aabb.org/sa/facilities/Pages/RTestAccrFac.aspx>

GREAT RESOURCES

- ✚ AABB has launched a new certificate course for individuals who would like to be recognized as AABB-trained sample collectors for relationship testing purposes. Find more information at the following link: <http://www.aabb.org/development/education/material/Pages/RT-certificate-course.aspx>
- ✚ Standards for Relationship Testing Laboratories for 11th Edition is now available. The publication contains a CD of the Guidance for Standards for Relationship Testing Laboratories, 11th Edition as well as a cross walk to identify the changes from the previous edition. Purchase a copy at: <http://www.aabb.org/Pages/Marketplace.aspx>
- ✚ Purchase a copy of the previously held (Nov. 7th) audio conference titled Changes to the 11th Edition of Standards at the following link: <http://www.softconference.com/aabb/slist.asp?c=5054#DTJanuary92013>

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