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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

2.1.3 Evaluations of competence shall be performed before independent performance of assigned activities and at least annually for personnel performing specific critical tasks. Assessment of a specific task shall include the following when applicable:

- 1) Task outcomes using blinded testing materials.
- 2) Task execution for all applicable methodologies using direct observation.
- 3) Performance of calculations, or reviews of specific testing outcomes.

Must the laboratory director perform an annual competency test? Does participation in proficiency testing cover the competency requirement?

There is a difference between competency testing and proficiency testing, and both should be incorporated into any assessment program. Competency focuses on the individual's ability to achieve an expected outcome. In contrast, proficiency testing often tests the competence of several individuals who participate in different steps of a procedure or process that ends with a test result.

Proficiency tests may be used to evaluate competency as long as every critical task that the employee performs is evaluated; this can be accomplished by splitting the proficiency test samples and distributing them to multiple individuals or by purchasing separate proficiency tests for individuals.

Each critical step in the testing process for which the individual is responsible must be evaluated for competence annually. *This includes the laboratory director and designee*; if this individual performs hands-on processes within the laboratory, these activities should be assessed with competency tests *in addition to assessing for competency in the areas of calculations and/or reporting*. Individuals not directly involved in the laboratory testing process but who perform a task critical to producing the test result should be evaluated for competence. CAP paper challenges are a convenient and effective means to test

Available Now!

11th Edition Standards for Relationship Testing Laboratories

*The effective date January 1,
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competence of individuals who review relationship testing casework and perform the associated calculations.

5.5 Calculation methods shall be validated. The results from loci with a significant degree of linkage shall not be used independently in calculations.

How should loci be evaluated for a significant degree of linkage?

The accepted distance between 2 loci on the same chromosome is at least 50 Centimorgans unless there is sufficient data in the literature to indicate the loci segregate independently. CSF1PO/D5S818 have been studied and found that at 25 cm, the loci segregate independently. The loci Penta E/FESFPS are approximately 16 cm apart and this has been demonstrated to result in a significant departure from random assortment. Recent articles have indicated that the loci vWA/D12S391 “demonstrate that the effect of ignoring linkage in the likelihood ratio calculation can be considerable. These results suggest that linkage should be considered during kinship analysis when vWA and D12S391 are tested for pedigrees where a recombination could impact the LR value.” (O'Connor KL, Tillmar AO. Effect of linkage between vWA and D12S391 in kinship analysis. Forensic Sci Int Genet. 2012 Dec;6(6):840-4. doi: 10.1016/j.fsigen.2012.03.008. Epub 2012 Apr 27.)

Unless the laboratory can cite articles that support independent assortment, they shall not report loci within 50 Centimorgans on the same chromosome on their test reports unless haplotype calculations are made. As an alternative the laboratory can report one of the two PIs. The choice of the higher or lower PI of the two is left to the laboratory, however note that the higher PI would be the minimum PI one would obtain if haplotype data were available.

7.2 When nonconforming proficiency test results are obtained, the laboratory shall evaluate and take appropriate action in response to results with unacceptable grades or deviation from nongraded challenges with known answers or that have reached 80% consensus.

What actions should be taken if the laboratory disagrees or if their results differ from the published answers from the CAP paper challenge?

The CAP paper challenge provides the participant with the frequencies for all the alleles observed at each locus. While there are several approaches to the calculations, when using the provided frequencies, they all should give the same answer as provided by CAP. The laboratory's calculated results for

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each locus should be the same as the results published by CAP. If the paper challenge is used as the director's competency for calculations, deviations from the CAP answer are not acceptable. If the director believes the formulas he/she is using are correct, then the director should submit those formulas, with derivation, for evaluation, with a reason why deviation from the standard likelihood ratio calculation is warranted.

Upcoming AABB workshop

AABB has partnered with Promega Corporation to present a **free** workshop at the 25th International Symposium on Human Identification.



AABB Relationship Testing Accreditation Program

Sunday, September 28, 2014 10am-12pm

There is no cost for this workshop, register at [25th ISHI](#)

Description: This workshop will give an overview of the initial accreditation process, how to prepare for an assessment and maintain accreditation. The 11th Edition of the AABB standards for Relationship Testing will be explained in detail with focus on the intent of each standard. Common nonconformances found during assessments will be presented along with suggestions on how to avoid them.

Learning Outcomes: A better understanding of the AABB Standards for Relationship Testing, 11th Edition, the initial accreditation process and the Relationship Testing Program in general. How to avoid the most commonly found nonconformances during assessment

Intended Audience: Current AABB members as well as anyone interested in the AABB Accreditation Program for Relationship Testing Laboratories.

You may also be interested in the Complex Relationship Statistics Workshop being held on Monday, September 29, 2014 8:30-5:00 pm

**The AABB Relationship
Testing Annual Report
Summary**

To obtain a FREE copy
JUST CLICK:

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

NEW! ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT FOR AABB ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

Please remember that a new standard was added to the 11th edition of the Standards for Relationship Testing Laboratories that took effect January 1st.

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

Please ensure your compliance with this requirement by maintaining contact with the AABB National Office, Department of Accreditation and Quality.



New from AABB

Relationship Testing Collector Training and Certificate



**Are you
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This self-paced online course teaches individuals the proper methods to collect, process, and submit high quality DNA samples. Successful individuals will earn a Certificate of Training from AABB and be included on the list of qualified collection professionals given to AABB Accredited Relationship Testing laboratories nationwide.

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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 Members

- ❖ 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.

2013-2014 RTAPU Members

George Riley, MT(ASCP) Chair

Marisol De Castro Reyes, MD
Zach Gaskin
Charles Kelly, PhD
James Fuller, PhD
David Ku, MD
George Maha, JD, PhD

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Marilyn Pollack, PhD
Jane Pritchard, MS,
MT(ASCP), CLSp(MB)
Marco Scarpetta, PhD
April Hayne

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. 7, 2013) audio conference titled Changes to the 11th Edition of Standards at the following link: <http://www.softconference.com/aabb/slist.asp?c=5054#DTJanuary92013>

Misleading Claims of Accreditation and Logo Misuse

With the explosion of advertising on the internet, there has been increasing misuse of AABB's trademarked logos and misleading claims of AABB accreditation. We are renewing our efforts to stop such practices and are actively searching out these organizations so that we can address this problem on a more global scale. These efforts benefit accredited laboratories by preserving the strong value of AABB accreditation and by ensuring that customer attention is focused on laboratories that actually are accredited. Our facilities work hard to achieve and maintain accreditation and deserve the maximum benefit of that accreditation. Increased vigilance will also benefit laboratories' customers by ensuring that they get the accredited-laboratory test that they have paid for. You can aid these efforts by bringing to our attention instances of logo misuse or misleading statements regarding accreditation. Please advise AABB's Accreditation Department (accreditation@aabb.org) by providing the offending Web site and briefly describing the issue. It would be particularly helpful if you copy and email the actual link from your browser's address bar, as some offending organizations maintain multiple Web sites. The AABB Trademark Usage Guideline can found on the AABB Web site under About the AABB/Governance and Policies. <http://www.aabb.org/about/governance/Pages/default.aspx>

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT OFFICIAL AABB POLICY AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON FOR LEGAL ADVICE.