



Fulfilling the Requirements:
Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories

The Forensic Assurance Team is dedicated to providing the highest quality proficiency tests for your laboratory system. The Forensic Biology and Forensic DNA tests have been designed to meet both your laboratories quality assurance needs and the standards required in the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories (Standard 13). Forensic Assurance provides biological proficiency tests (Forensic Biology and Forensic DNA) four times a year: Winter, spring, summer, and fall. It is required that forensic practitioners take two tests per year (Standard 13.1); one in the first six months of the year and the second test in the second six months of the year. Forensic Assurance produces a Winter/Summer and Spring/Fall cycle (Standard 13.1) to meet this standard. Male DNA profiles will be provided on each test so that both STR and Y-STR technologies may be tested semi-annually (Standard 13.1). Each test is designed to include two known (suspect/victim) blood samples prepared on a FTA card and two questioned stains prepared on swabs or evidentiary items such as clothing items, swabs, cloth swatches, or weapons. Each annual cycle (Winter/Summer or Spring/Fall) will contain at least one semen sample, one blood mixture, and one single source blood sample as evidentiary samples to compare to the known samples. These samples may be processed manually and/or robotically to ensure that all of your procedures and methods are tested annually (Standard 13.1.1 and 13.1.4.1). Forensic Assurance Proficiency Tests fulfill the ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020 external proficiency testing requirements for laboratories accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors / Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), Forensic Quality Services, Inc. (ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/FQS) and the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) (Standard 13.2).