



NSAI
Standards

Irish Standard
I.S. EN ISO 21043-1:2018

Forensic Sciences - Part 1: Terms and definitions (ISO 21043-1:2018)

I.S. EN ISO 21043-1:2018

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:

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S.R. xxx: Standard Recommendation — recommendation based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

SWiFT xxx: A rapidly developed recommendatory document based on the consensus of the participants of an NSAI workshop.

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National Foreword

I.S. EN ISO 21043-1:2018 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN ISO 21043-1:2018, Forensic Sciences - Part 1: Terms and definitions (ISO 21043-1:2018)

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN ISO 21043-1

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

September 2018

ICS 07.140

English Version

Forensic Sciences - Part 1: Terms and definitions (ISO 21043-1:2018)

Criminalistique - Partie 1: Termes et définitions (ISO 21043-1:2018)

Forensik - Teil 1: Begriffe und Rahmenbedingungen (ISO 21043-1:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 21 July 2018.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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EN ISO 21043-1:2018 (E)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 21043-1:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 272 "Forensic sciences" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 419 "Forensic Science Processes" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2019.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 21043-1:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 21043-1:2018 without any modification.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO
21043-1**

First edition
2018-08

Forensic sciences —

Part 1: Terms and definitions

Criminalistique —

Partie 1: Termes et définitions



Reference number
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ISO 21043-1:2018(E)

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 272, *Forensic sciences*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 21043 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

The development of international standards for forensic science is important to enhance the reliability, transparency and confidence in forensic evidence. Standards will harmonize work practices to facilitate forensic facilities from different countries to work collaboratively in response to cross border investigations. They will also enable facilities from different countries to support one another in the event of a catastrophic event that exhausts a country's capabilities.

Standards will also facilitate the exchange of forensic results, information and intelligence, including the sharing of databases, to ensure forensic services are fit for purpose. Standardization in the manner that forensic evidence is collected, analysed, interpreted and reported is critical to the common approach to how evidence is utilized. This enables the sharing of information and intelligence among jurisdictions, to successfully exonerate the innocent or prosecute perpetrators.

Consistent and accepted standards within the forensic community will benefit all users of the criminal justice system including members of the public as well as legal and forensic practitioners. Recent issues in various countries illustrate the benefits that standards could provide, particularly in the pattern matching sciences such as hair analysis, DNA interpretation and fingerprints.

Conformance to a platform of relevant standards for law enforcement and forensic disciplines would ensure that methodologies are robust, repeatable and validated, and that training across jurisdictions is consistent. This would have a direct bearing on the quality of scientific evidence presented in the courts, and would increase the likelihood of successful justice outcomes.

This document is part of a series which, when completed, will include the different components of the forensic process from scene to courtroom (as illustrated in [Figure 1](#)). The series describes primarily "what" is standardized, not the "how" or "who". Best practice manuals and standard operating procedures should describe "how" the requirements of this document would be met. National regulations and policies will determine "who" should meet the requirements of this series.

This document provides a vocabulary that standardizes the use and meaning of terms associated with the forensic sciences. These terms are drawn from standard terms used in the forensic science processes, as contained in the core forensic standards developed to date. Discipline-specific standards will include their own specific vocabulary.

This document is organized alphabetically and follows natural (English) word order wherever possible. The source documents for the definitions are International Standards developed by ISO/TC 272. Where possible, users are advised to verify whether a more recent edition of the source document has been published, which contains an updated version of the terms and definitions. Future versions of this document will include updated terms and definitions consistent with the source documents at the time the revision is prepared.

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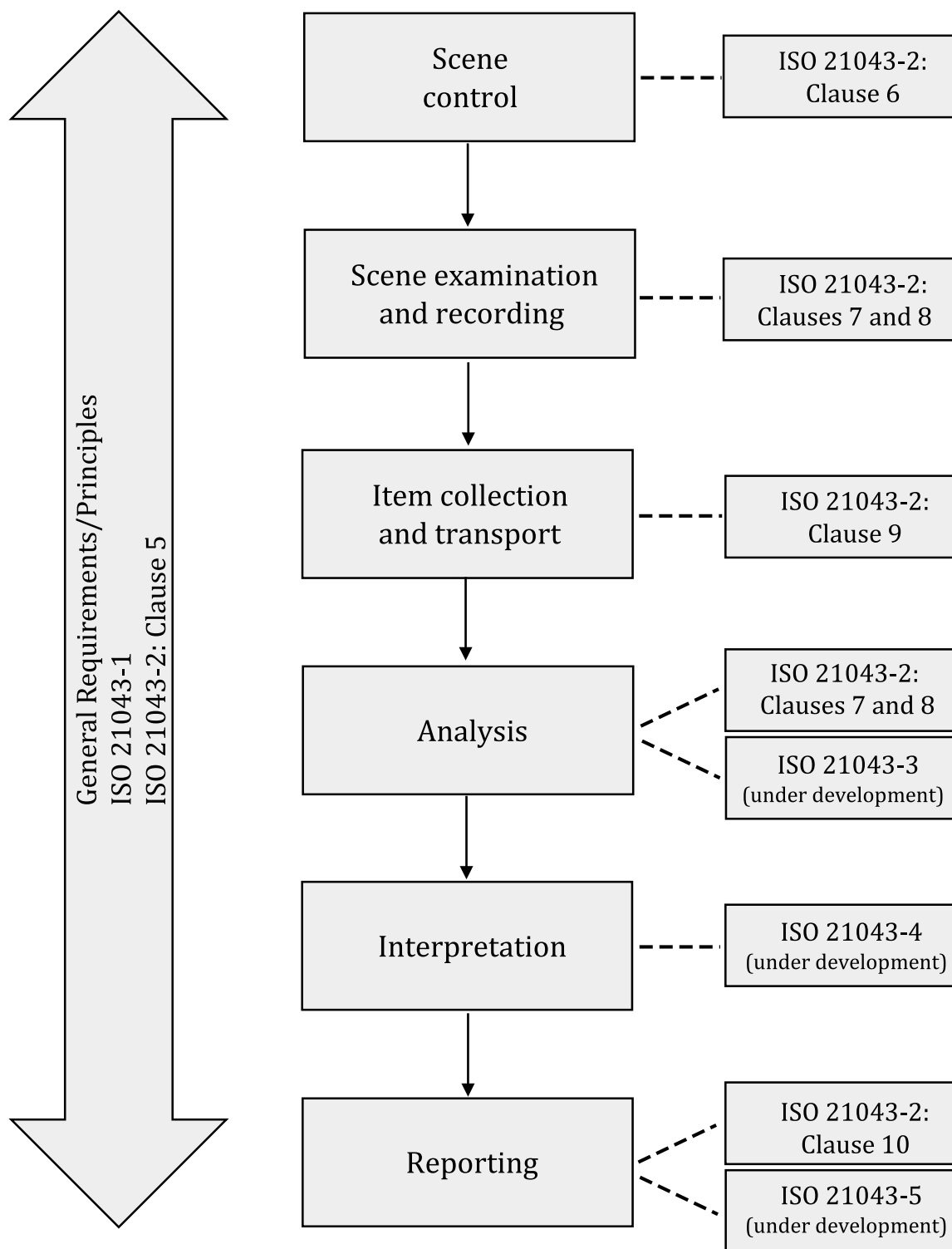


Figure 1 — Relationship between the various components in the forensic process and the clauses within the ISO 21043 series

Forensic sciences —

Part 1: Terms and definitions

1 Scope

This document defines terms used in the ISO 21043 series of standards.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references cited in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

chain of custody

chronological *record* (3.23) of the handling and storage of an *item* (3.19) from its point of collection to its final return or disposal

Note 1 to entry: Chain of custody is one element that contributes to the integrity of an *item* (3.19).

3.2

consumable

single use or limited use material which is used in the *forensic process* (3.15)

3.3

contamination

undesirable introduction of a substance to an *item* (3.19) at any point in the *forensic process* (3.15)

Note 1 to entry: This includes undesirable transfer of a substance within an item or between *items* (3.19) (also referred to as cross-contamination).

3.4

control sample

material with known properties, analysed in order to evaluate the performance of the test and to ascertain that the data obtained are valid

3.5

customer

client, authority, organization or person(s) requesting the *forensic* (3.14) services

3.6

document

information and the medium on which it is contained

EXAMPLE Specification, procedure document, policy, instruction or form, drawing, *record* (3.23), *report* (3.26), standard, flowchart.

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