

## TPD: Membership in a Professional Association

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**Professional association defined**

Professional associations are comprised of individuals with similar educational backgrounds and interests.

The associations sponsor annual meetings, local conferences, seminars, and special courses designed to enhance a practitioner's performance.

The associations offer an opportunity to network with other professionals and to promote personal development by providing information, personal contacts and technical support.

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**Recognized professional associations**

Professional associations currently recognized by the laboratory include but are not limited to

- [American Academy of Forensic Sciences \(AAFS\)](#)
  - [American Board of Criminalistics \(ABC\)](#)
  - [American Chemical Society \(ACS\)](#)
  - [American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors \(ASCLD\)](#)
  - [Association of Firearm & Tool Mark Examiners \(AFTE\)](#)
  - [Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers \(AFQAM\)](#)
  - [California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors \(CACLD\)](#)
  - [California Association of Criminalists \(CAC\)](#)
  - [California Association of Toxicologists \(CAT\)](#)
  - [California Homicide Investigators Association \(CHIA\)](#)
  - [International Association for Chemical Testing \(IACT\)](#)
  - [Northwestern Association of Forensic Scientists \(NWAFS\)](#)
  - [Society of Forensic Toxicologists \(SOFT\)](#)
  - [Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists \(SWAFS\)](#)
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**Association membership**

Employees of the laboratory are encouraged to participate in professional associations and technical working groups which promote the timely exchange of information among peers.

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**Annual dues**

The laboratory will pay the annual dues for one professional association membership for each laboratory employee.

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