

## 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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