



National Commission on Forensic Science

Approach of the Inspectors General to Quality Standards for Digital Forensics

Carl W. Hoecker
Inspector General
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

June 21, 2016

Overview of Inspectors General Approach

Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)

- Integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies
- Professionalism and effectiveness of personnel by developing policies, standards, and approaches

CIGIE Investigations Committee

- Quality Standards for Investigations
- Quality Standards for Digital Forensics
- Quality Assurance Review program

Quality Standards for Digital Forensics Outline and Review Topics

MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

A. Digital Forensic Capability

All organizations conducting investigations that may require the use of digital forensics must ensure the investigations can be supported by forensically sound and legally sufficient digital forensic examinations.

Standard subtopics: Legal Authority, Integrity of Evidence, Forensic Documentation

B. Quality Management

Organizations conducting digital forensic examinations must implement a quality management system to govern digital forensic methodologies and work products.

Standard subtopics: Administrative Review, Technical Review, Validation Testing, Review of Quality System

Review topics: Policy and procedures, quality management system, ensure sufficient legal authority, documentation of results from validation testing, integrity of the evidence, reports administratively reviewed, forensic reports, documentation sufficiently detailed

Quality Standards for Digital Forensics Outline and Review Topics (cont.)

PERSONNEL STANDARDS

A. Qualifications

Personnel assigned to perform digital forensic activities must possess technical competency for the tasks they are assigned.

Standard subtopics: Education, Experience, Character, Technical Concepts, Problem Solving, Entry-Level Training, Competency

B. Proficiency

Personnel conducting digital forensics must maintain proficiency to conduct the tasks they are assigned.

Standard subtopics: Continuing Education, Proficiency Testing

Review topics: Personnel trained, minimum hours of training, competency exam