

Sex Offender Management Board
Position Statement – 04-18-08
Use of Standardized Visual Response Time Assessments
(e.g. Abel Assessment and Affinity Assessment)

Adult Standards Reference:

Adult Standards 2.050 (in part) – To ensure the most accurate prediction of risk for sex offenders, the following evaluation modalities are all required in performing a sex offense specific evaluation:

- Testing of deviant arousal or interest (i.e. Plethysmograph, Abel Screening, or other Visual Response Time (VRT) instruments)

Adult Standards 2.060 (in part) –

SEXUAL EVALUATION	
Arousal/Interest Pattern ❖ Sexual Arousal or Sexual Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clinical Interview (D) ▪ Plethysmograph (S) or Abel Assessment (S)

Preferences (Male/Female; Age; Masturbation; Use of Tools, Utensils, Food, Clothing; Current Sexual Practices; Deviant as well as Normal Behaviors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Interview (D) • Plethysmograph (S) or Abel Assessment (S)
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Adult Standards 3.160 – A provider shall employ treatment methods that are supported by current professional research and practice:

- H. A treatment provider shall employ treatment methods that integrate the results of polygraph, plethysmographs, visual response time assessments or other physiological testing as indicated.

Adult Standards 5.730 Parental Risk Assessment (PRA)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender’s Arousal to/Sexual Interest in Children Sexual Arousal or Sexual Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardized Tests (Minimum of one of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abel Assessment of Sexual Interest ○ Plethysmograph
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Adult Standards 5.742 (A, B, and C)

3. Plethysmograph or Abel Assessment for Sexual Interest results indicate a reduction in, or absence of, any sexually deviant arousal/interests and the

offender consistently demonstrates the use of cognitive and behavioral interventions to interrupt deviant fantasies and behaviors.

Position Statement:

The Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) Adult Standards currently require the use of a plethysmograph or Abel Assessment as part of the sex offense-specific evaluation. In addition, the Adult Standards recommend the use of plethysmograph or Abel Assessment as part of sex offense specific treatment.

The SOMB recognizes that another Visual Response Time Assessment (i.e. the Affinity Assessment) has been developed since the SOMB approved the use of the Abel Assessment. Per the *Discussion Point* under Adult Standard 2.050, “*Evaluation instruments and processes will be subject to change as more is learned in this area.*” Therefore, the SOMB is making the following position statement regarding Visual Response Time Assessments until such time as the Adult Standards are revised:

The SOMB authorizes the use of a Standardized Visual Response Time Assessment (i.e. Abel Assessment and Affinity Assessment) for evaluation and treatment purposes as currently prescribed in the Adult Standards noted above.