
Overview

This is about determining the forensic examinations to be undertaken for exhibits, and recording examination plans.

The term exhibits can cover various forms of forensic material, including test items, samples or productions.

Maintaining health and safety, together with the integrity and continuity of forensic materials, is of paramount importance.

Determine forensic examinations to be undertaken for exhibits

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 obtain the relevant details of scenes of incidents in line with forensic strategy, including:
 - P1.1 forensic exhibits to be examined
 - P1.2 circumstances relating to the location
 - P1.3 recovery of exhibits
 - P1.4 requirements of the investigation
 - P2 select appropriate examinations for forensic exhibits in line with the needs of investigations
 - P3 provide explanations to support your selections of examinations in line with organisational requirements
 - P4 agree with relevant people examination plans in line with the requirements of investigations
 - P5 record agreed examination plans in line with organisational requirements
 - P6 communicate examination plans to relevant people in line with organisational procedures
 - P7 schedule forensic examinations to optimise the production of evidence
 - P8 identify any risk to safety linked to undertaking forensic examinations, and:
 - P8.1 take the necessary actions towards minimising any risks
 - P9 deal with forensic exhibits in line with forensic procedures and ways which reduce risk to potential evidence, including the prevention of:
 - P9.1 contamination
 - P9.2 cross-contamination
 - P9.3 loss
 - P9.4 degradation
 - P10 maintain the continuity of forensic exhibits in line with forensic strategy

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Knowledge and understanding**Legal and organisational requirements****You need to know and understand:**

- K1 the implications for your work of current law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relevant to the analysis, comparison and evaluation of forensic exhibits
- K2 implications of current law, policies and procedures relating to:
 - K2.1 health and safety
 - K2.2 information and data handling
 - K2.3 human rights
 - K2.4 criminal justice system
- K3 your organisation's requirements regarding the verification of findings, and the rationale for and importance of independent verification
- K4 your level of authority and expertise, and the actions necessary should this be exceeded
- K5 the importance of maintaining effective communications with others, and how to do this

Examination plan**You need to know and understand:**

- K6 the importance of developing and recording examination plans
- K7 the importance of using appropriate search and recovery techniques, and checking that any tests performed are appropriate for the investigation
- K8 the importance of communicating examination plans effectively to people and how to do this
- K9 how to select appropriate examinations, and their purpose, use and limitations
- K10 the operational, forensic and quality control factors and principles you must consider when determining and carrying out different types of examinations
- K11 the criteria you should take into account when planning and scheduling examinations, and the importance of carrying out examinations in a particular sequence
- K12 the importance of preserving materials to allow for advances in scientific

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techniques

Examination of forensic exhibits

You need to know and understand:

- K13 the importance of recording any adaptations to forensic examination procedures you have made, and how to do this
- K14 how to identify and access relevant information relating to forensic exhibits within your area of operations

Communication and recording information

You need to know and understand:

- K15 how to make best use of up to date techniques and technologies to ensure that the most relevant and accurate examinations are made
- K16 the ways in which potential evidential material may be lost and how to avoid this
- K17 how to identify and minimise the risk of contamination and cross-contamination
- K18 what information to record, and how it should be recorded to ensure that notes and records are fit for purpose
- K19 how to keep records to protect the security of information, and who has the right of access to information

Health and safety

You need to know and understand:

- K20 potential health and safety risks associated with different types of potential evidence, and how to address them

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