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**Overview**

This standard is about undertaking technical analyses of samples recovered from scenes of incidents for forensic purposes. Samples can include exhibits, productions, and materials recovered from exhibits and productions for further examination.

You will need to analyse samples using validated techniques, including appropriate sampling criteria and methods. You will also need to record the outcomes of your analyses.

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

## Undertake technical analyses of forensic samples

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### Performance criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 gather relevant and available information regarding the circumstances of forensic samples, including how they were:
    - P1.1 found
    - P1.2 produced
    - P1.3 recovered
  - P2 identify any risks to safety linked to working with forensic samples, and:
    - P2.1 take the necessary actions to minimise any risks
  - P3 undertake analyses using appropriate equipment relevant to the requirements of investigations
  - P4 identify relevant techniques and methodologies for analyses that are technically correct, validated and documented
  - P5 conduct analyses correctly using appropriate techniques
  - P6 conduct relevant system checks in line with organisational requirements, and:
    - P6.1 address any anomalies
  - P7 use appropriate sampling criteria and methods of analysis, including statistical analysis, in line with forensic procedures
  - P8 use reference materials for analyses that are traceable to available and recognised standards
  - P9 use reagents that are within date and fulfil criteria required for analyses
  - P10 identify test material based upon traceable and correct reference data
  - P11 record work undertaken, methods and results in line with organisational procedures, and:
    - P11.1 ensure they support the outcomes of your analyses
  - P12 maintain the integrity, security and continuity of samples in line with forensic procedures
  - P13 inform relevant people of outcomes of analyses in line with operational requirements and timescales

## Undertake technical analyses of forensic samples

**Knowledge and understanding****Legal and organisational requirements**

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the implications of current law, policies, operating procedures and guidelines relevant to the analysis of forensic samples and the verification of forensic materials
- 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 level of authority to access information, and where additional authority may be needed
- K4 how to maintain effective communications with others

**Analysis of forensic samples**

You need to know and understand:

- K5 how to identify and access relevant information relating to forensic samples within your area of operations
- K6 the importance of undertaking analyses in areas and using equipment which fulfil case requirements
- K7 the types of system checks required when conducting analyses, how to undertake these, and what to do if anomalies are found
- K8 analysis methods and techniques for forensic sampling relevant to your area of operations
- K9 current procedures and thinking regarding good working practice in forensic sampling and analysis relevant to your area of operations
- K10 the importance of remaining impartial and objective
- K11 how to make best use of technology to ensure that accurate analyses are made
- K12 the types of reagents relevant to your area of operations, and how to use them
- K13 documentation relating to analyses and how this should be completed

**Health and Safety**

You need to know and understand: K14 potential health and safety risks associated with different types of potential evidence, and how to address them

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## Undertake technical analyses of forensic samples

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