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**Overview**

This standard is about reviewing and verifying outcomes from evaluations of forensic samples by checking the accuracy of findings. This may be for the purpose of independent verification within an organisation, as required by national guidelines, or for verifying outcomes presented in investigations. It includes checking critical findings and reviewing case files to confirm that it addresses everything required, and that work undertaken has been carried out according to established procedures. It is recognised that these aspects may be carried out simultaneously.

Review and verification is undertaken by someone who is suitably qualified, and can include a peer review of work undertaken by another forensic science practitioner.

You will need to gather relevant information and carry out independent comparisons and evaluations of forensic samples. You will also need to compare outcomes from your evaluations with previous decisions and take appropriate action.

Forensic samples can include body fluids, fingerprints, footwear impressions and tool marks.

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

**There are two elements**

- 1 Review findings relating to comparisons of forensic samples
- 2 Review case files

## Review findings relating to comparisons of forensic samples

**Performance  
criteria****Review findings relating to comparisons of forensic samples****You must be able to:**

- P1 gather information related to 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 in line with organisational procedures, and:
  - P2.1 take necessary actions to minimise any risks
- P3 assess recovered samples and examination findings in line with policy and standard organisational procedures
- P4 decide the samples relevant for comparison in line with forensic procedures
- P5 evaluate forensic samples and results in line with organisational procedures
- P6 evaluate the levels of match to identify how well samples corresponds to reference material
- P7 confirm any critical findings have been checked independently in line with organisational policy and procedures
- P8 record the results of verifications of forensic samples in line with organisational procedures
- P9 instigate inquiries where there are differences between your own and previous evaluations in line with organisational requirements
- P10 inform relevant people the outcomes of verification processes in line with operational procedures
- P11 maintain the integrity, security and continuity of samples in line with organisational procedures

**Review case files****You must be able to:**

- P12 confirm relevant details have been documented in line with organisational requirements, including:
  - P12.1 details checked and found to be correct

## Review findings relating to comparisons of forensic samples

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- P13 identify critical findings from case files in line with forensic procedures, and:
  - P13.1 confirm that these have been signed and dated in line with organisational procedures
- P14 confirm that conclusions have been drawn in line with organisational requirements and forensic strategy, and that these are:
  - P14.1 justified
  - P14.2 supported by available information
- P15 check all documentation in line organisational procedures
- P16 confirm that work relating to forensic investigations has been undertaken in line with organisational policies and procedures, and:
  - P16.1 addresses customers' requirements
- P17 check that files identify any material that has not been examined, and that work is referenced in line with forensic procedures
- P18 assess whether cases have been managed in line with organisational policies and procedures
- P19 address any concerns in case files in line with organisational policies and procedures
- P20 sign off complete case files in line with operational procedures

## Review findings relating to comparisons 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 reviewing forensic samples
- 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 for the verification of findings
- K4 your personal responsibilities and authority, and where additional authority may be needed
- K5 how to maintain effective communications with others
- K6 how to address anomalies or inconsistencies in case files, according to documented procedures

**Interpretation of findings**

You need to know and understand:

- K7 the forensic strategy and examination requirements of incidents being investigated
- K8 the importance of and ways of establishing the accuracy, validity and reliability of examination methods
- K9 the importance of ensuring that examination data is fit for purpose, complete, comprehensive and accurate
- K10 the use and relevance of different types of examinations
- K11 the scientific and forensic principles and practices on which your interpretations are based
- K12 how to process, interpret, combine and evaluate results
- K13 reliable sources of information available for consultation
- K14 the criteria on which opinions are based and the importance of objectivity and impartiality when considering findings
- K15 the importance, and rationale, of reviewing the findings
- K16 the importance of considering alternative propositions regarding incidents in terms of results obtained from examinations

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### Verification of findings relating to forensic sampling

You need to know and understand:

- K17 the importance of considering timescales when checking findings to prevent loss of samples or results
- K18 how to carry out objective verifications from evaluations of forensic samples
- K19 how to identify and access relevant information relating to your area of operations
- K20 examination analysis methods and techniques for forensic samples relevant to your area of operations
- K21 how to make best use of available technology to ensure that the most relevant and accurate results are obtained
- K22 current working practice in forensic analysis, evaluation and verification
- K23 documentation relating to verification and how this should be completed

### Reviewing the case file

You need to know and understand:

- K24 the importance of managing case files effectively, and how to assess whether this has occurred
- K25 the importance of reviewing case files and the criteria against which files should be reviewed
- K26 the actions to take where required criteria are not met

### Health and Safety

You need to know and understand:

- K27 potential health and safety risks associated with different types of potential evidence, and how to address them

## Review findings relating to comparisons of forensic samples

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