
Overview

This standard is about communicating your findings from forensic examinations to relevant stakeholders, including those who may have little knowledge of science or forensic science. Stakeholders may include police officers investigating incidents, customers, and agency or legal representatives who have commissioned examination work to present evidence at court.

It includes explaining the significance of findings, and considering other propositions which may be suggested by stakeholders.

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

Performance

criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 communicate your findings and conclusions from forensic examinations in line with organisational requirements, and:
 - P1.1 provide the rationale for examinations
 - P1.2 state the limitations of examinations undertaken
 - P1.3 set out the implications of findings relevant to the case
 - P1.4 explain any technical terms
 - P1.5 differentiate between fact and opinion
 - P1.6 express opinions within your area of expertise
 - P1.7 reference to case notes and related materials
 - P1.8 consider the circumstances of incidents
- P2 provide justifications to support decisions made and conclusions drawn from forensic examinations in line with organisational procedures
- P3 answer any questions according to the needs of the audience
- P4 provide advice based upon established scientific principles, your knowledge and expertise and the findings of the case
- P5 assess additional information and alternative explanations of your findings suggested by stakeholders in line with forensic procedures
- P6 identify areas of agreement or disagreement in line with organisational procedures
- P7 identify the need for further examinations in line with forensic procedures
- P8 record relevant information in line with organisational requirements

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 evaluation and interpretation of forensic materials
- K2 implications for your work 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 these be exceeded

Reports regarding forensic examinations

You need to know and understand:

- K5 the type, extent and purpose of reports regarding forensic examinations
- K6 the established scientific and forensic principles and practices on which you base your conclusions
- K7 how to assimilate different opinions and propositions in order to formulate conclusions within your area of expertise
- K8 the principles involved in processing, evaluating and interpreting results of examinations, and the importance of considering probability and statistical variation
- K9 comparison and evaluation methods and techniques used in forensic examinations
- K10 limitations of examinations used, and the importance of expressing these limitations
- K11 current opinions on working practice in forensic sampling and evaluation relevant to your area of operations
- K12 when and how to consider alternative propositions, and how these might

Communicate findings and their implications from forensic examinations

be tested

K13 the importance of recognising the limitations of your own abilities and to consult with others where necessary

K14 how to ensure that information you use is current, reliable and accurate

Communications

You need to know and understand:

K15 the principal types of stakeholders and their different requirements from forensic examination processes

K16 the importance of communicating to the needs of the audience

K17 methods used to present technical explanations to facilitate

understanding by stakeholders, including non-scientists

K18 methods for checking understanding between relevant parties when communicating

K19 the importance of clarifying areas of agreement and disagreement, and methods for doing this

K20 the importance of impartiality and how to present balanced opinions and conclusions

K21 the importance of ensuring that findings and conclusions you provide are consistent with written reports, statements or other documentation

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