

SARC Network News

Issue #18

18th November 2025

You are invited to a Webinar on:

Understanding ISO 18385 – Forensic DNA Grade consumables

This is a 2 hour Webinar, held on teams, which will provide information and learning on the following topics:

- What are Forensic DNA Grade consumables?
- How are Forensic DNA Grade Consumables Manufactured?
- Treatment and Testing (Ethylene Oxide (EtO) and Batch Testing)
- Records, Quality Assurance Certificates and Product Labelling



This webinar is aimed at practitioners and staff from Forensic Units that are purchasing consumables for the purpose of **DNA recovery and analysis**. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday 3rd**

December 10am-12pm. You can register to attend via **Eventbrite**.

Attendees will receive a slide package that can be used as a training and information toolkit for other staff members within their organisation.

We need your feedback on the use of the national validations conducted by the FCN in collaboration with SARCs across England and Wales

Working with the SARC community, the FCN have conducted the following national validations:

- FCN-SAR-VAL-0006 SARC National Consumable Validation
- FCN-SAR-VAL-0012 Forensic Cleaning Validation

Additional guidance has also been provided to SARCs on how to verify validated processes to demonstrate

they are fit for purpose when conducted within your SARC facilities by your staff:

- FCN-SAR-VER-0002 SARC Cleaning Verification
- FCN-SAR-GUI-0036 FCN SARC End to End Verification Guidance- National Roll Out

The FCN continues to work with the forensic community collaboratively to conduct national validation and

verifications across all forensic disciplines. To ensure that we continue to improve and provide the best support we need your feedback so that we can learn and improve.

Is there anyway that we can improve our validation or verification approaches?

[Please Let us know](#)

Current National Stance on Self Swab 'Rape Kits'

On Friday 24th October the FFLM wrote to all universities in England and Wales to express their concerns about the promotion and distribution of self-swab 'rape kits' to university students by external companies.

The FFLM shared the following update on their social media channels. You can view the post on LinkedIn [here](#):

[FFLM stance on Self Swab 'Rape Kits'](#)

If you require any further information, please contact forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk

The Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP) Body Fluid Forum (BFF) have also issued a position statement on the matter which is available [here](#):

[AFSP-BFF Position Statement on Self Swabbing Kits](#)

SARC FSR Code Compliance Survey

Thank you for all completing the SARC FSR Code compliance survey in September. In total 98% of the community responded with just one SARC not responding.

Next FSR Code compliance update survey will be sent out in December.



Output from this survey was well received by Office of the Forensic Science Regulator (OFSR) and future surveys will be monitored by the FSR, including non-responders. The data we gather is to monitor SARCs progress on a national level and highlight any potential risks in a national picture.

The data is shared in its entirety with the OFSR and as anonymised overviews with the community (provided permission has been given and data has been shared). SARCs who do not contribute or do not give permission to share with the community will not receive a copy of the landscape report, so in order to have this benefit, please ensure that you agree to sharing your data anonymised.

The next survey will go out early in December. Please send [feedback here](#) about how usable the form was, also please nominate which email contact should be used (if the incorrect one was used for the initial form).

The forms will change slightly to allow 'No change' to be selected if there has been no change since you completed the last survey. I will include the response to the previous survey so that you can see what was submitted in the previous quarter.

The following editions of FCN SARC Network News will contain anonymised and generalised findings from both pre and initial UKAS assessments. The idea for this is to identify trends and learn from others in order to reduce the number of findings raised by UKAS in future assessments.

This approach is supported by UKAS and the OFSR.

Please continue to share your reports and findings with us when you have received your report. Please also raise any findings that you feel are unfair or where you do not believe the required action is proportionate to the value added to the forensic output or service.

Please email these to us: [contact us](#)

