

I am carrying out research for my dissertation, which is on the process of cleaning CSI equipment in relation to ISO17020. I am looking at the levels of contamination that may be a concern when ISO7020 is put in place in 2020 and why such levels of cleaning is needed. I am enquiring if I could have some information of the cleaning regimes your force uses on the CSI equipment such as the CSI vans, stepping plates, tents, lighting, fingerprint kits or any other equipment used at crime scenes.

**West Midlands are working towards ISO 17020 accreditation in line with the Forensic Science Regulators Code of Conduct and the Anti-Contamination requirements. We are accredited within our laboratory environments for ISO 17025 and undertake weekly cleans and regular deep cleans and undertake external environmental monitoring. That regime is detailed below and it is envisaged that we will mirror this procedure for CSI equipment and environments. We are currently looking into the internal racking within our vans and personal kit cases to ensure contamination is minimised.**

#### **Weekly Clean**

**Once a week all DNA Areas must have:**

- **All bench-top equipment such as microscopes, light boxes, balances and fridges cleaned with bleach (appropriate concentration), DNA cleaning reagent or Mediwipes. To minimise disturbance, it is recommended that balances are cleaned as part of their weekly calibration check.**
- **Bench tops, laboratory chairs, surfaces of cabinets, door handles bins and floors cleaned with bleach or DNA cleaning reagent.**

#### **Deep clean**

**Once a month in addition to weekly clean, the following areas and items of DNA labs shall be cleaned:**

- **Ceiling lights, wall lights, vents, walls and all non-fibrous fixed ceilings.**
- **Fridges cleaned (externally and internally).**
- **Stationery allocated to each work bench station.**