

Changes to the FSR Codes of Practice and Conduct Issue 5 to FSR-C-100 Issue 7

The FSR Codes have just undergone a quick revision from Issue 6 to Issue 7 to reinstate Section 23.4 which was deleted when Issue 6 was published. This being the only change to version 7 and many may not have considered the impact of revision 6, it was felt that it might be useful to directly compare Issue 5 to Issue 7 of the Codes.

The table below focuses on additional requirements. Notes and minor clause reference amendments are not commented upon. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of the information provided, Qualimetric cannot be held responsible or liable for any error or omissions. We would, however, be grateful if you could inform us of any issues identified in its content at info@qualimetric.co.uk

FSR Issue 7 Page/Section	FSR Issue 5 Page/Section	Change	Comments/suggestions
P4-14	P4-15	Table 1: Standards/requirements for forensic science activity – Target dates for accreditation/staged implementation changed.	
P7	P7	Digital forensics ‘in situ CCTV and body worn video and supporting clips added	
P7	P7	Note 7 added regarding substitution of ISO 17025 instead of ISO 17020	
P17	P19	Appendix 36 Sexual Assault Examination: Requirements for the assessment, collection and recording of forensic science related evidence FSR-C-116 added	
P29	P27	Section 7.1.1 relating to Business Continuity now makes reference to Section 23 ‘Control of Data (e.g. Backups, Recovery and Business Continuity)’	
P32/33	P29	Section 12.1.1 relating to Subcontracting now includes ‘external services which affect the quality of forensic unit’s activities’ and ‘responsibility for work including that of any subcontracted element’.	
P33	P29/30	Section 12.1.2 added relating to Subcontracting which requires a procedure and specific records listed as ‘a’ through ‘c’	
P35	P31	Section 15.1.1 relating to non-conforming testing now includes additional consideration of ‘f’ Judicial criticism.	
P54	P45	Section 21.2.32 relating to the Validation Plan now requires that ‘additional individuals’ are to be listed (shall vs should) and that the person responsible for sign-off should be recorded (as opposed to detailed).	

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P67-74	P54-56	Section 23.3 relating to Electronic Information Security has been entirely re-written and enhanced to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access removal and 6 monthly reviews to ensure access rights are still current; • second factor security authentication where possible; • limitation of authentication failures; • restrictions to internet access; • password selection, use, protection and management, • safeguarding against malware; • software support considerations; • management of removable storage media; • network segregation; • backup, recovery and business continuity considerations; • network security and mobile working; • use of cloud-based services; • security monitoring and situational awareness. 	
P80	P59	Section 26.4 relating to Exhibit Return and Disposal. New note added (102) to apply controls to subcontractors.	
P83	P61	Section 28.3.1 relating to Declarations of Compliance and Non-compliance with Required Standards – note (111) added relating to SFR1 reports – already specified in section 28.3.1.	
P83	P62	Section 28.2.3 - relating to Declarations of Compliance and Non-compliance with Required Standards, clarification application to ‘statements/reports for use as evidence’	
P85	P63	Section 28.3.1 – relating to Types of Report in the CJS. (i) Clarification made not just to say whether the forensic unit is accredited, but to state whether ‘the results are from a method which requires accreditation and if so, if the method is within the forensic unit’s schedule of accreditation. Also (ii) that the SFR1 ‘is intended to be presented in evidence, unless a full evaluative report is required instead’.	
P88	P65	Sections 28.6.2/3 relating to Defence Examinations ‘must’ changed to ‘shall’ for consistency	

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P89	P66	Section 28.6.7 relating to Defence Examinations now refers to the 'Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984' and additional note (125) relating to the 'Protection of Freedoms Act 2012',	
P90	P66	Section 28.6.10 relating to Defence Examinations to ensure that all exhibits (or parts..) that are to be released to the defence are additionally 'recorded, labelled and any conditions that apply to handling and retention are made in writing (e.g. from the course, prosecution, customer)'.	
P100	P73	Definition of 'Analyte' extended to apply to the 'focus of the analysis' in Digital Forensics.	
P113	P82	Appendix 36 – Sexual Assault Examination: Requirements for the assessment, collection and recording of forensic science related evidence FSR-C-116	