

## **Pending ISO Standards for Forensic Manufacturers**

Jeremy S. Triplett

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, [www.asclld.org](http://www.asclld.org)

In recent years the forensic DNA community has sought ways to eliminate “contamination” events due to the manufacturing process of forensic DNA consumables. Several events have been chronicled in the media since 2010 involving unknown DNA profiles obtained at a forensic laboratory that were eventually traced back to a vendor or the manufacturing process of a particular consumable. Indeed, if asked, nearly every forensic DNA analyst can speak with familiarity of a similar incident in their laboratory. This has led the international forensic DNA community in cooperation with consumable manufacturing partners to begin the development of an ISO standard for forensic DNA consumable manufacturers.

An ISO standard titled “ISO/CD 18385 – Minimizing the risk of contamination in products used to collect and analyse biological material for DNA purposes” is currently being drafted by the ISO Forensic Sciences technical committee (ISO/PC 272). The purpose of the standard is to set the criteria around which consumables used in forensic DNA collection and analysis should be manufactured to ensure the consumables are free of amplifiable and detectable human DNA.

At the time of this presentation, ASCLD was discussing the formation of a U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that would allow the United States to switch from an “observing member” of ISO/PC 272 to a “participating member” through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the US representative to ISO. A switch from “observing” to “participating” is important as it would allow the US forensic DNA community and the U.S. DNA consumable manufacturing community input into the draft and final ISO standard.

Update: Since this presentation in October 2013, the ASCLD Board of Directors has formally decided to pursue this process and is excited to announce the formation of the U.S. Technical Advisory Group. At this time, ANSI has submitted the required paperwork to ISO for the U.S. to become a participating member of ISO/PC 272 and ASCLD is excited to begin working with the U.S. forensic DNA community and our DNA consumable manufacturing partners to represent both communities’ interests to the committee.