

Role of the UK customs laboratory in combating food and consumer goods fraud

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‘Food fraud encompasses deliberate and intentional substitution, addition, tampering, or misrepresentation of food, food ingredients, or food packaging; or false or misleading statements made about a product for economic gain.’

Chris Elliot, September 2014

Campden BRI's role in UK Customs contracts

- HM Revenue & Customs – dealing with all aspects of classification and imports, representation in Brussels, criminal investigations.
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA) – Olive oil analysis and other schemes.

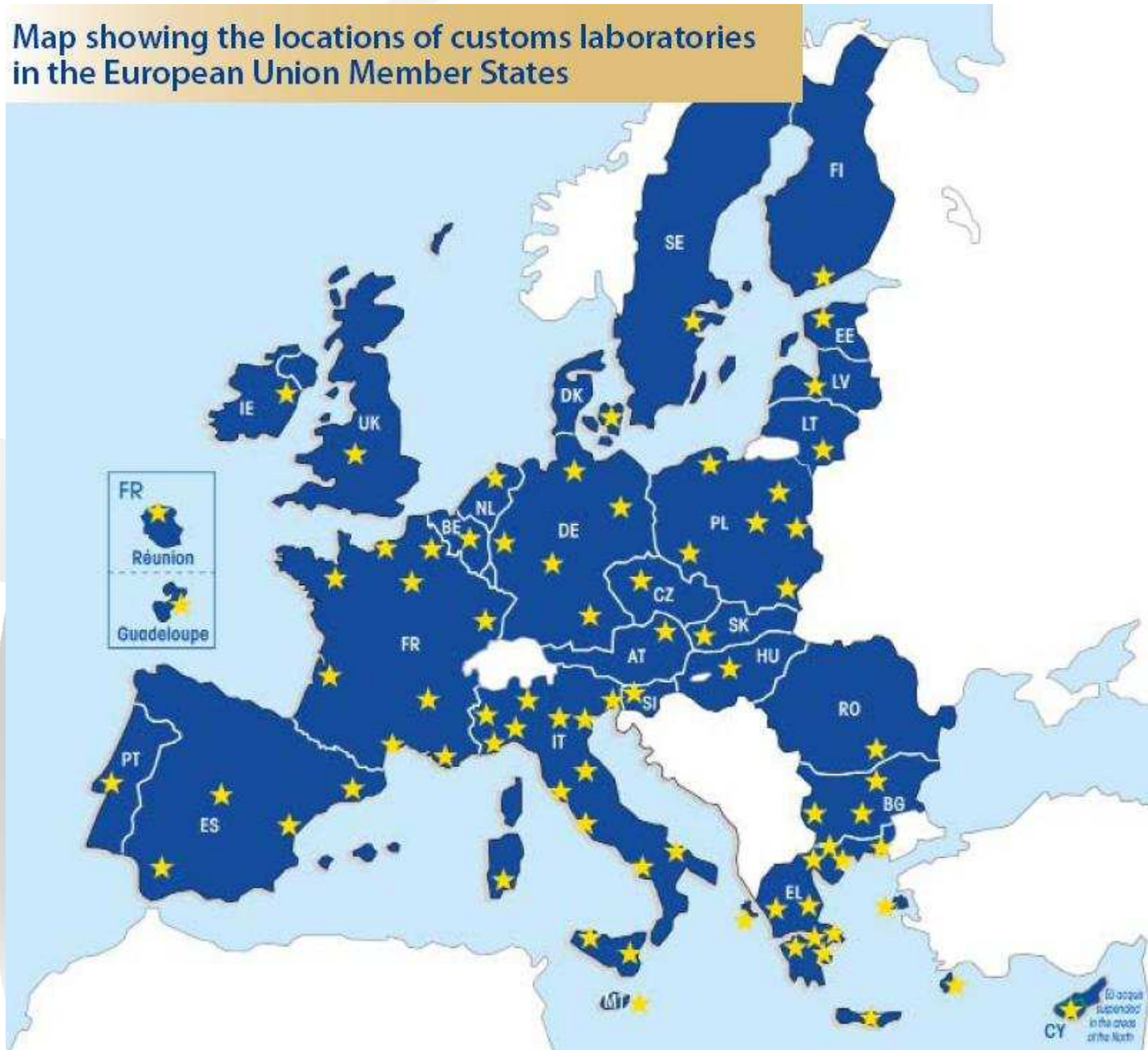
What are customs laboratories like?



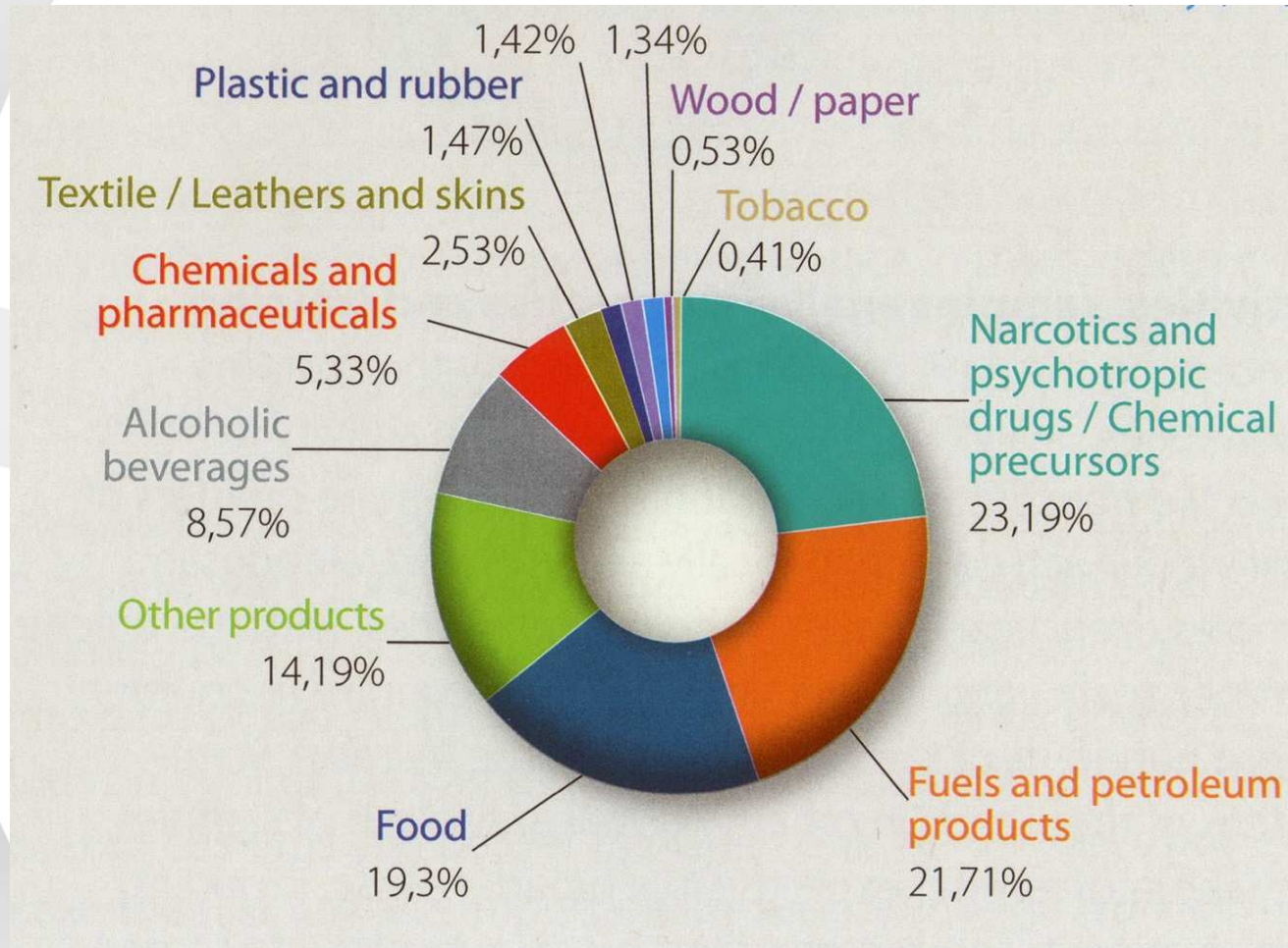
What are customs laboratories like?



Map showing the locations of customs laboratories in the European Union Member States



Types of samples analysed



Customs Laboratory European Network (CLEN)



Customs Laboratories
European Network

- Established in 1999
- Provides structure for coordination and networking under the lead of the European Commission.
- Six integrated 'Actions'

Harmonised System



- HS Nomenclature:
 - 21 Sections, 99 Chapters
 - 5,000 commodity groups
 - 6-digit code (8-digit in EU)
- Published annually as Commission Regulation
- Adopted into UK law as the Integrated Tariff of the United Kingdom

Meursing (Additional) Code Requirements

There are four test results that are required to obtain a Meursing Code, these are:

1. Sucrose (including invert sugar)
2. Starch/Glucose
3. Milk Fat
4. Milk Protein



Additional codes (3 digits) for certain goods covered by Regulation (EC) No. 3448/93

Starch Glucose ⁽¹⁾ (% by weight)		≥0 - <5					≥5 - <25					≥25 - <50				≥50 - <75			≥75	
Sucrose/Invert sugar/ Isoglucose ⁽²⁾ (% by weight)		≥0 <5	≥5 <30	≥30 <50	≥50 <70	≥70	≥0 <5	≥5 <30	≥30 <50	≥50 <70	≥70	≥0 <5	≥5 <30	≥30 <50	≥50	≥0 <5	≥5 <30	≥30	≥0 <5	≥5
Milk Fat (% by weight) ≥0 - <1.5	Milk Proteins ⁽³⁾ (%) (% by weight) ≥0 <2.5	000	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	013	015	016	017	758	759
	≥2.5 <6	020	021	022	023	024	025	026	027	028	029	030	031	032	033	035	036	037	768	769
	≥6 <18	040	041	042	043	044	045	046	047	048	049	050	051	052	053	055	056	057	778	779
	≥18 <30	060	061	062	063	064	065	066	067	068	069	070	071	072	073	075	076	077	788	789
	≥30 <60	080	081	082	083	084	085	086	087	088	X	090	091	092	X	095	096	X	X	X
	≥60	800	801	802	X	X	805	806	807	X	X	810	811	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
≥1.5 <3	≥0 <2.5	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	115	116	117	798	799
	≥2.5 <6	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	135	136	137	808	809
	≥6 <18	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	155	156	157	818	819
	≥18 <30	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	175	176	177	828	829
	≥30 <60	180	181	182	183	X	185	186	187	188	X	190	191	192	X	195	196	X	X	X
	≥60	820	821	822	X	X	825	826	827	X	X	830	831	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
≥3 <6	≥0 <2.5	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	855	856	857	858	859
	≥2.5 <12	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	215	216	217	220	221
	≥12	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	275	276	X	838	X
≥6 <9	≥0 <4	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	875	876	877	878	879
	≥4 <15	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	315	316	317	320	321
	≥15	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	375	376	X	378	X
≥9 <12	≥0 <6	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	915	916	917	918	919
	≥6 <18	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	415	416	417	420	421
	≥18	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	X	470	471	472	X	475	476	X	X	X
≥12 <18	≥0 <6	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	955	956	957	958	959
	≥6 <18	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	515	516	517	520	521
	≥18	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	X	570	571	572	X	575	576	X	X	X
≥18 <26	≥0 <6	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	975	976	977	978	979
	≥6	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	615	616	X	620	X
≥26 <40	≥0 <6	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	X	990	991	992	X	995	996	X	X	X
	≥6	700	701	702	703	X	705	706	707	708	X	710	711	712	X	715	716	X	X	X
≥40 <55		720	721	722	723	X	725	726	727	728	X	730	731	732	X	735	736	X	X	X
≥55 <70		740	741	742	X	X	745	746	747	X	X	750	751	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
≥70 <85		760	761	762	X	X	765	766	X	X	X	770	771	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
≥85		780	781	X	X	X	785	786	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Note: < = less than; ≥ = greater than or equal to. An X indicates where a combination cannot exist.

Meursing table

Seasoned poultry



- Chapter 2 – Meat and edible meat offal
- Chapter 16 – Preparations of meat, or of fish, or of crustaceans, molluscs or of other aquatic invertebrates

Additional note 6a of Chapter 2 states:

Uncooked seasoned meats fall in Chapter 16. 'Seasoned meat' shall be uncooked meat that has been seasoned either in depth or over the whole surface of the products with seasoning either visible to the naked eye or clearly distinguishable by taste.

Assessment of samples



Seasoned poultry next steps?



Imported lamb



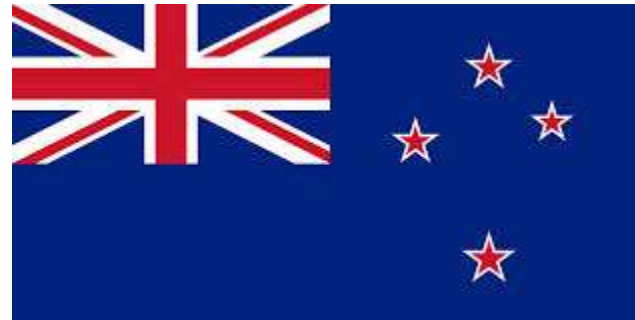
Imported 'lamb fat'?



Lamb fat?



Next steps?



Tobacco



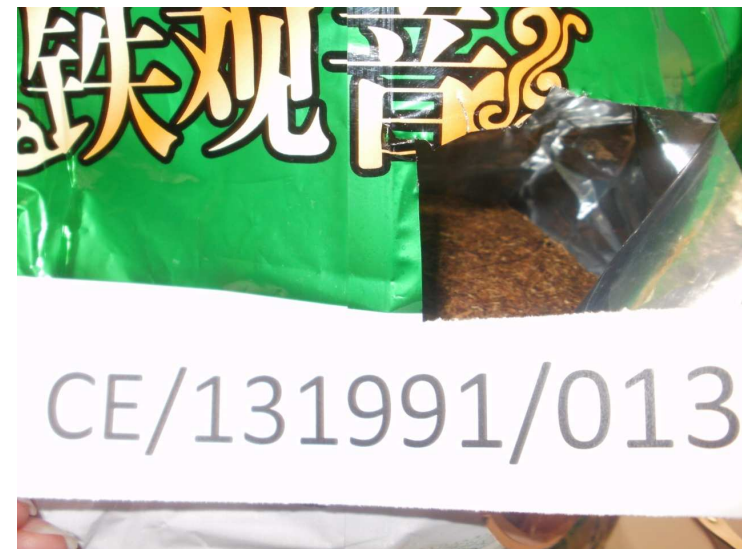
- Comprises a high proportion of enforcement samples sent for analysis
- Often declared as other items, including:
 - Tea
 - Molasses
 - Insect repellent (citronella)
- It is necessary to confirm they are tobacco, and ascertain whether they are suitable for smoking

A close examination of shoes?

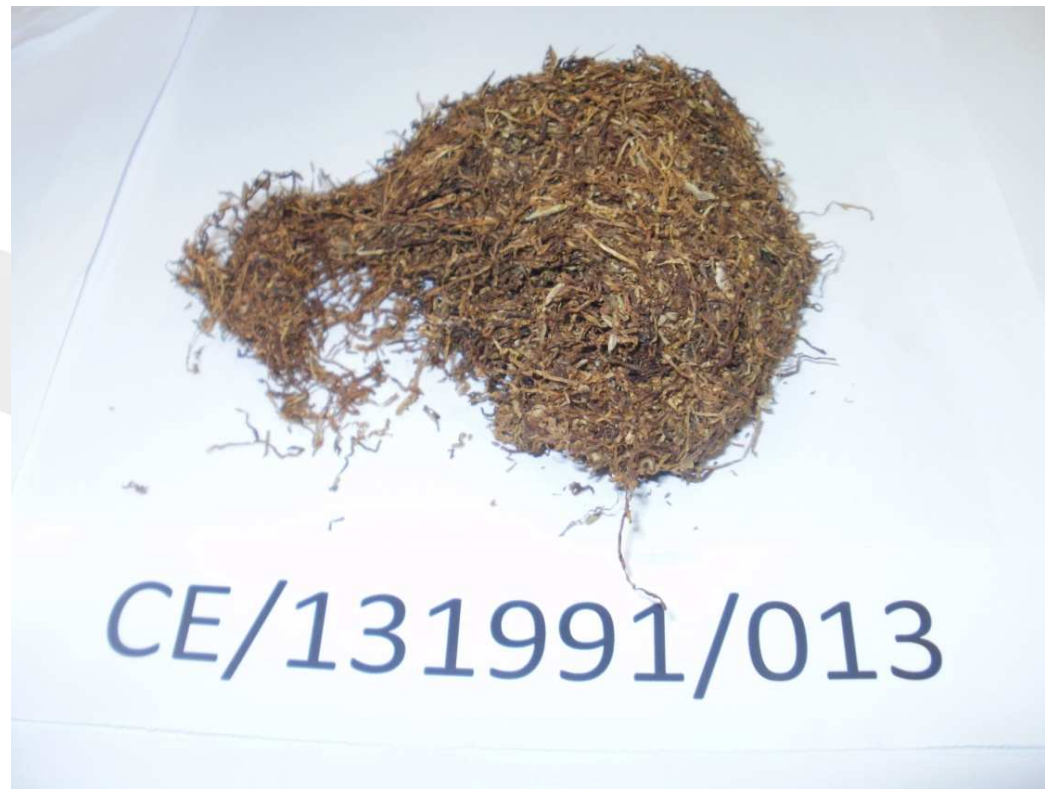




Tobacco
declared
as tea



Microscopic analysis confirmed the sample to be consistent with hand rolling tobacco.



Golden Virginia?



- The sample was seized as part of an investigation into counterfeit tobacco.
- The sample was analysed by GC/MS alongside genuine Golden Virginia hand rolling tobacco.
- Significant levels of benzoic acid, butylated hydroxytoluene, and propanoic acid were found only in the genuine sample.
- A significant level of sorbic acid was found only in the seized sample.

Counterfeit spirits

- The sample was seized from an individual arrested in connection with cigarette smuggling.
- Analysis showed a low alcohol content and an illegal level of methanol.
- GC/MS analysis clearly showed the presence of tert-butyl alcohol and isopropanol



Counterfeit Labelling

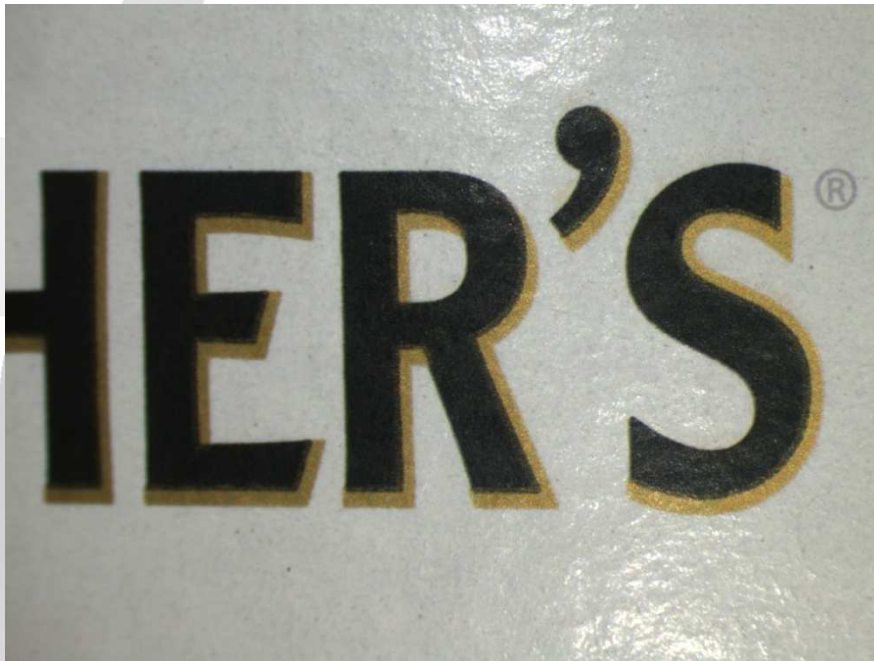
- Samples labelled as Teacher's whisky were received, along with rolls of duty paid labels.
- The whisky itself was analysed by GC/MS, and the labels were examined visually



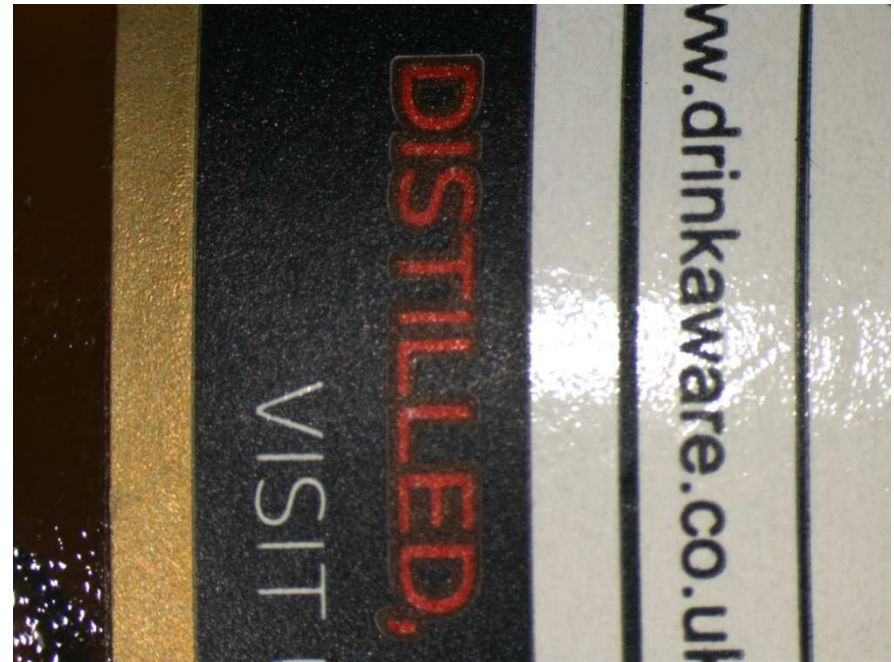
Counterfeit Labelling



Counterfeit Labelling



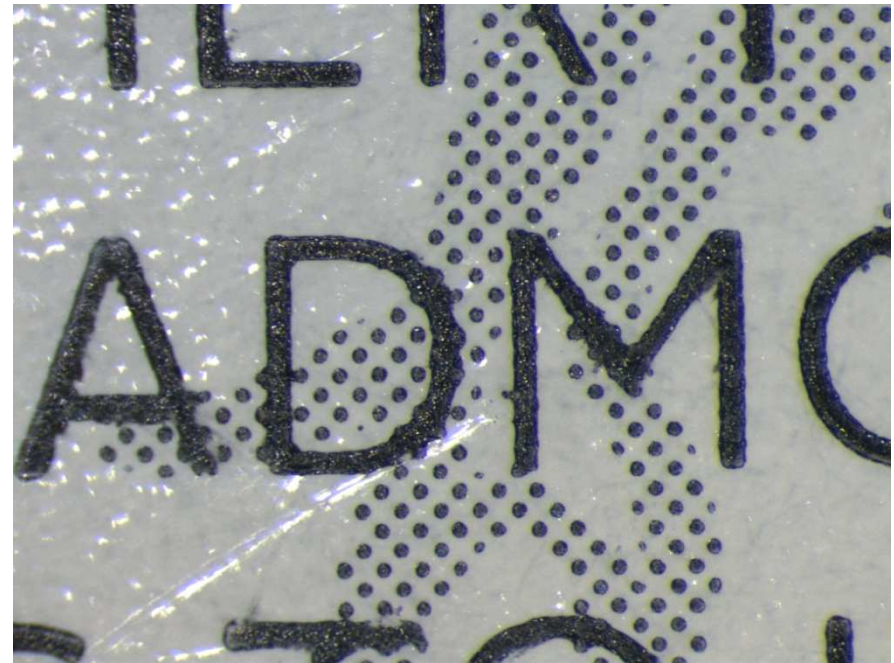
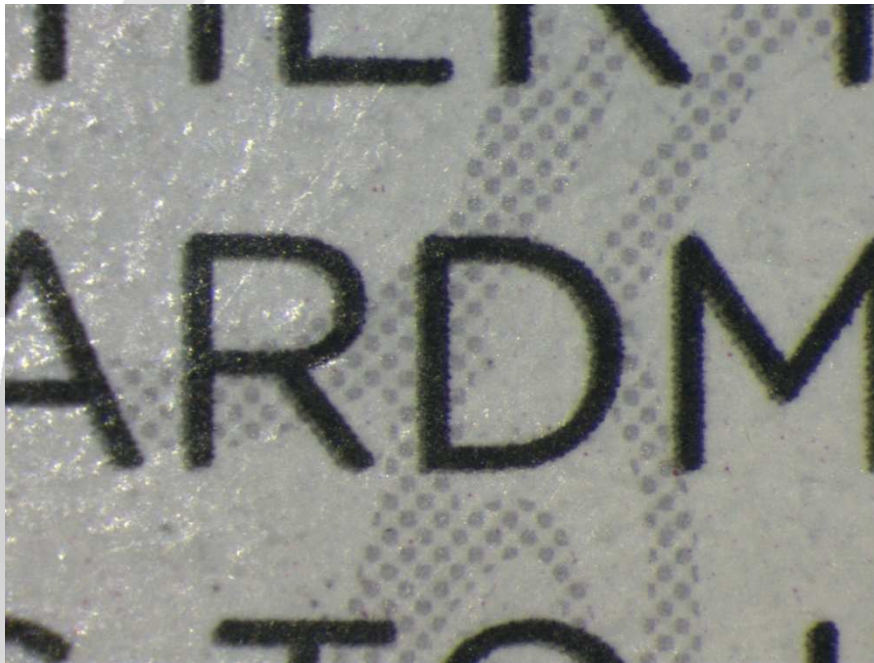
Counterfeit Labelling



Counterfeit Labelling



Counterfeit Labelling





End

- Any Questions?