

<b>FSR Regulatory Notice 03 / 2020</b>	
<b>Deadline for accreditation of incident scene investigation</b>	
<b>Issue date: 02/10/2020</b>	<b>Effective date: 02/10/2020</b>
<b>Previous notice(s) relevant to this notice: FSR Regulatory Notice 01 / 2020</b>	

### **Issue**

This Regulatory Notice has been issued to update forensic units that the deadline for accreditation of incident scene investigation is now 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

### **Incident Scene Investigation**

Regulatory Notice 01 / 2020 stated that, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 for forensic units to achieve accreditation to ISO 17020 and the Codes of Practice and Conduct in relation to incident scene examination had been disapplied. It was noted that (a) a new deadline would be set when the position was clearer and (b) the deadline would be moved back by not less than 6 months (i.e. to April 2021 at the earliest).

The position with regard to Covid-19 has improved since the issue of the Regulatory Notice 01 / 2020 and the ability to achieve accreditation has been, to a significant degree, restored. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is restarting on-site assessments shortly, it is therefore possible for forensic units to proceed with scheduling in initial assessments for their incident scene examinations.

Providing any significant worsening of the pandemic does not necessitate a modification of the deadline stated in this notice, the deadline for accreditation is now set as 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. This will, subject to the possibility of change, be reflected in future versions of the Codes of Practice and Conduct's

Statement of Standards and Accreditation Requirements, as reproduced for the relevant disciplines in table 1.

**Table 1: Standards/requirements for forensic science activity <sup>1</sup>**

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Accreditation to ISO 17020 to include the Codes <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Appendix/ Guidance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Incident scene examination <sup>3</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 2021	UKAS RG201	Covers all aspects of incident scene investigations including but not limited to assessment, search, identification, recovery and recording (e.g. photography). See also digital forensics.
Digital forensics - Incident scene activity	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 2021	As applicable UKAS RG201 FSR-C-107 FSR-C-119	Screening, capture and preservation or analysis of data from a device conducted at scene (including but not limited to routers).

<sup>1</sup> The Codes and associated appendices to are available from: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/forensic-science-providers-codes-of-practice-and-conduct](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forensic-science-providers-codes-of-practice-and-conduct) [Accessed 17/09/2020].

<sup>2</sup> The international guidance document Modules in a Forensic Science Process – G19:08/2014 is applicable. This includes specific requirements for method validation in ISO 17020, and if testing is conducted as part of the incident scene examination, if the type of testing warranted it, the relevant aspects of ISO/IEC 17025 would apply for the testing activity at scene.

<sup>3</sup> Where specialists such as crime scene investigators (however named) are deployed.