



D90 Automated Identification Technologies: Improving the Management of Forensic Evidence

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about Automated Identification Technologies (AIT), such as bar coding and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), and an assessment conducted by the Technical Working Group on Biological Evidence to evaluate AIT's usefulness in forensic evidence management.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing insight into new technologies that can aid in the management, tracking, and preservation of evidence.

Forensic science laboratories and law enforcement agencies have increasingly used AIT such as bar coding and RFID to track and manage assets such as forensic evidence, firearms, and personnel. In August 2010, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) convened the *Technical Working Group on Biological Evidence Preservation* "to create best practices and guidance to ensure the integrity, prevent the loss, and reduce the premature destruction of biological evidence after collection through post-conviction proceedings." While the best practices handbook was being produced, an assessment of automated identification technologies was conducted to evaluate its usefulness in improving the management of forensic evidence. As a result of the assessment, the group created recommendation IV-6 of *The Biological Evidence Preservation Handbook* which reads, "Overall, it is highly recommended that jurisdictions consider automated identification technologies to enhance chain-of-custody recordkeeping and tracking, to facilitate inventories, and to allow for efficient retrieval of evidence."

This presentation will include discussion of a report summarizing the findings of the AIT assessment. The report includes insights into the barriers facing the adoption of AIT within the law enforcement industry, the current business processes that can be benefited by injection of AIT, and a Return On Investment (ROI) analysis of RFID's use in property and evidence rooms. Finally, this report will address the foundational principles that must be established in order to achieve industry-wide adoption and the strategic next steps that should be undertaken by local law enforcement agencies and high-level federal stakeholders.

Evidence, RFID, NIST