

Building the world's first DNA database



Vial sample labels being printed on the Toshiba TEC thermal printer

Requirements

- Lab sample tracking
- High efficiency
- Long term reliability
- Resistance to environment extremes

The Solution

- High performance labelling system
- Handheld Products IT3800 barcode readers
- Toshiba TEC B472 thermal barcode label printers

Benefits

- Efficient sample tracking
- Immediate sample retrieval
- Reliability to support the criminal justice system



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About the Company

The Forensic Science Service (FSS) is the main supplier of forensic science services to all the police forces of England and Wales. The organisation also provides a wide range of training, consultancy and scientific support services. The FSS has a reputation for the integrity, impartiality and accuracy of its findings.

Requirements

As the custodian of the National DNA Database, FSS was tasked with increasing the efficiency of forensic science to the criminal justice system. Following a detailed study, the organisation determined that a totally reliable system of identification and tracking DNA samples was crucial to the overall solution. Barcoding appeared to offer the most suitable method of ensuring the accuracy and accountability of samples within the system. As a result, FSS made the decision to undertake a project based on barcoding technology.

The project specifications were strict. In particular, the barcode labels had to meet exceptionally tough performance standards. Labels, which had to be attached to the DNA sample testing containers, needed to survive being cycled between room temperature and 100°C and then stored at -80°C for up to 10 years.

The Solution

After exhaustive research and trials of various materials under strict conditions, The Barcode Warehouse was awarded the contract to provide a

barcode labelling solution for the DNA sampling system.

An initial pilot system was installed at one site. Its performance fully met all the very strict criteria. Subsequently, the project was rolled out to five main sites around the UK. Each was provided with full on-site training and an on-going service support.

Specific products identified and used for the project included:

- Handheld Products IT3800 barcode readers.
- Toshiba TEC B472 thermal barcode label printers.

Benefits

The Barcode Warehouse tracking solution enabled the FSS to achieve their aims. The national DNA database can be relied on to provide the criminal justice system with the right evidence every time.

DNA samples can be stored safely for long periods. Yet they can be immediately retrieved whenever they are required, with maximum efficiency, thanks to the extreme accuracy and reliability of the barcode identification and tracking system.