

# Quality and quality assurance in forensic odontology. International aspects

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## **ABSTRACT**

Quality assurance or quality control is a term coming from the industry. Here it is most important. All products must have minimum quality and variation in size for example must be within certain strict limits. This must be controlled in some way. May be not every single product is controlled, but spot tests must be taken. If not good enough, measures must be taken to improve the quality.

This concept has been transferred to medicine and odontology and also forensic odontology. It has common with industry that certain products are produced. However, they are usually handmade and not produced in an industrial process. In addition, dentistry is a great deal of art and judgement and quality control of these factors may be difficult. In this lecture I will focus on forensic odontology. What are the problems? What can we do and what can we not do? Also how can we assure the quality of both the work, the assessment and conclusion, and the report. I have some personal opinions on that and will give some suggestions.

Quality assurance on an international level is difficult. Conditions and juridical systems are different in different countries. Especially are forensic odontologists different and have different opinions. This presentation will be relevant to the ongoing discussion and attempts at revising the IOFOS' guidelines for quality assurance.