

## Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services

### 14.3: Working practices

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org/red-book/chapter-14-guidelines-for-the-use-of-dna-pcr-techniques-in-blood-establishments/14-3-working-practices>

### 14.3: Working practices

- DNA should be as intact as possible.
- An archival record (e.g. photograph or electronic image) of each post-PCR run should be retained.
- The performance of non-commercial kit based probes and primers must be fully validated and characterised before they are put into use.
- Reagents (e.g. chemicals, enzymes) must be stored and utilised under conditions recommended by the manufacturer, including, for example, storage temperature, test temperature, shelf life, diluent buffer and concentration for use.
- Each lot of reagents must be tested before use in routine typing.
- For reagents and kits, the source, lot number, expiration date and storage conditions should be documented.
- Users should have procedures to ensure that periodic checks of probes and primers are carried out to detect their deteriorating performance or contamination.
- Thermal cyclers should be serviced at least annually according to the manufacturer's recommendations and a temperature calibration should be performed. A record of the service and calibration checks should be maintained.
- When using non-commercial kit testing methods laboratories should regularly check their primer sequences for newly discovered single nucleotide polymorphisms. This can be done via the website for the National Genetics References Laboratories ([ngri.org.uk](http://ngri.org.uk)).
- Software used for analysis of results must be validated before use and updated regularly with appropriate allele sequences.