info4 SECURITY

Loomis catches thieves purple-handed!

Cash management solutions provider Loomis has succeeded in bringing about the UK's first-ever convictions using the innovative security and identification qualities of its SigNature DNA cash box.

By Brian Sims, 22 Dec 09

Following their capture by the Metropolitan Police Service, two men have been sentenced to prison sentences for stealing thousands of pounds from a retail outlet in London.

The DNA molecules within the Loomis cash box security solution

The SigNature DNA cash box is only used by Loomis in the UK. The botanical purple dye contains a unique DNA signature developed and supplied by Applied DNA Sciences, which is embedded and released when the Loomis cash box is disturbed.

The box was being used at a clothing store in London, where the men became indelibly marked by the DNA ink while stealing the takings from the shop.

The SigNature DNA was successfully used in a UK Court as forensic evidence by the prosecution. The DNA evidence submitted to the Metropolitan Police linked the criminals to the crime, and left no room for reasonable doubt.

Significant prison terms

The two suspects pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison: five years for one and 18 months for the other. The criminals were found with SigNature DNA-marked notes and the identical taggants marked their clothing, skin and mobile phones.

The men were caught when they attempted to spend the cash. The SigNature DNA-stained notes were picked up by the bank, removed from circulation and traced back to the suspect.

Loomis UK's group risk director Tony Benson

"The successful identification of this suspected criminal through the detection of the SigNature DNA dye is a landmark milestone for the prevention of cash theft," commented Tony Benson, UK group risk director for Loomis.

"The Loomis cash boxes, which contain SigNature DNA, provide our customers with a proven cash security method and deterrent."

Benson continued: "Last year in the UK alone, theft cost the retail industry £2868 million*. The use of the SigNature DNA cash box by this Yorkshire-based retailer is proof positive that the industry could potentially save millions each year in cash that would otherwise be stolen."

Official police reports confirm that the cash was washed to remove the dye, with no impact on the DNA markers. Even after washing, the stains were detectable on multiple notes, providing crucial Court-admissible evidence against the accused.

First UK operation to use SigNature DNA

Loomis is the first company in the UK to use SigNature DNA in its cash boxes. Having introduced the product this year, the incident in question has already proven the system's success.

The boxes contain a mix of SigNature DNA combined with invisible dyes that leave behind a detectable stain. The SigNature DNA is sprayed onto the currency within the cash box whenever it's forcibly accessed.

Benson added: "Loomis uses SigNature DNA in its cash boxes to ensure that when cash is stolen it's stained with the DNA. Criminals who come into contact with the cash are also stained with the DNA. This is a significant deterrent to criminals, as they stand a far greater chance of being caught and convicted if they attempt any robbery of Loomis-managed cash."

One of Loomis UK's Cash-in-Transit vehicles heads for Canary Wharf

Loomis has now won an award from the International Association of Currency Affairs for its use of the SigNature DNA.

*Source: Centre for Retail Research

About Applied DNA Sciences…

Applied DNA Sciences (APDN) sells patented DNA security solutions to protect products, brands and intellectual property from counterfeiting and diversion.

SigNature DNA is a botanical mark used to authenticate products in a unique manner that essentially cannot be copied.

APDN also provides BioMaterial GenoTyping by detecting genomic DNA in natural materials to authenticate finished products. Both technologies protect brands and products in a wide range of industries and provide a forensic chain of evidence that can be used to prosecute perpetrators.