

Synthesis Screening: Consensus Ahead?



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Read each statement, and **circle your level of agreement** with it.

Statement	Level of Agreement				
1. All customers for synthetic nucleic acids should be required to verify their identity (i.e. orders should not be sent to anonymous customers).	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
2. It should be the synthesis provider's responsibility to determine whether a customer is legitimate once a sequence of concern (SOC) is flagged in an order.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
3. Not every sequence that poses a significant biological hazard is from an agent or toxin regulated by a government.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
4. Different SOC's have different risk profiles; it is appropriate to treat them differently.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
5. In the next 1-2 years, a shared understanding is needed of the tiers of SOC risk and how customer screening processes adapted the risk profile of each SOC.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
6. Sequence screening tools are or can be made sufficiently robust to AI-designed and/or obfuscated sequences.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree

Statement	Level of Agreement				
7. Red-teaming of screening providers should be conducted regularly to see if SOCs can be acquired by customers who have not proven their legitimacy.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
8. Providers should be required through a legal mandate or strong regulatory incentives to screen every order they receive.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
9. Benchtop devices should be required through a legal mandate or strong regulatory incentives to screen every sequence they produce for possible SOCs.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
10. Sequence and customer screening practices can and should be harmonized internationally so that screening is similar around the world.	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Need more info	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree

Once everyone in your group is finished, you can find your gradient of agreement.