



Supplementary Criteria for Accreditation
Methamphetamine Contamination
Sampling and Testing



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Tohu Matatau Aotearoa

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Methamphetamine Contamination Sampling and Testing

AS LAB C2.4 / AS IB C1.2

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1 Introduction

1.1 International Accreditation New Zealand's (IANZ) Supplementary Criteria provide supplementary information to the General Criteria and Specific Criteria for Accreditation for specific types of testing or inspection activities. They provide detail or add extra information to the generally stated requirements of IANZ General Criteria for Accreditation and IANZ Specific Criteria for the particular field.

1.2 This supplementary criteria details the specific requirements covering the accreditation of laboratories and/or inspection bodies conducting sampling or analysis of samples from methamphetamine contaminated properties or a combination of these activities. Sampling activities may be undertaken by either Inspection Bodies or Laboratories; testing is undertaken by Laboratories only.

1.3 This is a supplementary document to IANZ Specific Criteria 2 (AS LAB C2) which includes general requirements for chemical testing laboratories and the IANZ Specific Criteria for Inspection Bodies (AS IB Cx). This document must be read in conjunction with the current issues of the following standards and IANZ publications, as applicable to the organisation's scope of accreditation:

1. ISO/IEC 17025 *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*
2. ISO/IEC 17020 *Conformity Assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*
3. *Specific Criteria for Accreditation: Chemical Testing (AS LAB C2)*
4. *Specific Criteria for Accreditation: Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 (AS IB C1)*
5. *Specific Criteria for Accreditation: Specific Procedures and Conditions for Inspection Body Accreditation (AS IB C2)*
6. *Specific Criteria for Accreditation: Competency Model Requirements (AS IB C3)*
7. *Procedures and Conditions for Accreditation (AS 1)*
8. NZS 8510 *Testing and decontamination of methamphetamine-contaminated properties*

1.4 Accreditation for sampling and/or testing is granted under the IANZ Chemical Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programme in the following classes of test:

2.58 Environmental monitoring

(d) Environmental wipes

Analysis for methamphetamine in accordance with the requirements of NZS 8510:2017 *Testing and decontamination of methamphetamine-contaminated properties*

Sampling for subsequent analysis for methamphetamine in accordance with the requirements of NZS 8510:2017 *Testing and decontamination of methamphetamine-contaminated properties*:

Contamination Level Assessment

- 1) Sampling for screening assessment
- 2) Sampling for detailed assessment

Post-Contamination Actions

- 3) Sampling for post-decontamination assessment

Unless specifically stated in the scope of accreditation, a laboratory is not considered to be accredited for sampling activities.

1.5 Accreditation for sampling is granted under the IANZ Inspection Body Accreditation Programme in the following inspection field:

Inspection Field

Methamphetamine Contamination Inspections

Inspection Type

Sampling for screening assessment

Sampling for detailed assessment

Sampling for post-decontamination assessment

Scopes for sampling activities may be further refined to set out the types of properties for which an organisation has demonstrated competencies for sampling, such as residential, commercial, boats, road vehicles etc.

It should be noted that accreditation of sampling activities includes not only taking of samples, but also the generation of appropriate sampling plans, based on the requirements of NZS 8510.

2 Technical Requirements

2.1 Personnel

In all cases providers of inspection (sampling) and testing (sampling and analysis) services shall be independent of persons and organisations that carry out decontamination.

Inspection Bodies seeking accreditation for sampling activities set out in NZS 8510 shall operate as a Type A Inspection Body, which requires independence of the work carried out. See Appendix 1. If an applicant Inspection Body is unsure whether or not they meet the requirements of Type A, completion of the form in Appendix 2 may be helpful.

Laboratories undertaking site inspections and sample site selection shall meet the requirements of Appendix 1, for this work. IANZ will assess independence and impartiality using the Appendix and all organisations accredited for NZS8510 compliant work are encouraged to complete the independence worksheet in Appendix 2 and to provide supporting evidence for their decisions.

The independence worksheet is also available via the IANZ website at:

<https://www.ianz.govt.nz/resources/documents-2/forms/>.

The competence of personnel undertaking sampling and testing activities will be assessed as applicable to the accreditation programme of the organisation i.e. as a Signatory working for an accredited Inspection Body or samplers/analysts working for a laboratory accredited under the Chemical Testing Laboratory programme.

Training and approval procedures shall include sufficient detail to ensure consistency between personnel, where relevant, to their scope of activities:

- (a) Performing site inspections
- (b) Selection of sampling sites
- (c) Sample collection

Testing laboratories and inspection bodies shall ensure that personnel have been assessed against the procedures prior to being authorised to undertake the above activities, and records retained.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Sampling

The three types of sampling activities for which an organisation may seek accreditation are set out in NZS 8510, either as part of a Contamination Level Assessment (for a screening assessment or a detailed assessment) or as part of Post-Decontamination Actions.

Inspection bodies and testing laboratories that undertake sampling activities must do so in accordance with documented procedures, which must be readily available at the point of sampling. Documented sampling procedures shall reference the standard/s (as per Appendix A of NZS 8510:2017) on which they are based.

Where field or laboratory composites are made up, each individual sample making up the composite shall be collected using the same methodology and materials as the discrete wipe samples to allow for accurate interpretation of the results, as per Appendix A of NZS 8510:2017.

The sampling procedures shall include the requirement to obtain background information on the site to be sampled; this should include, where relevant:

- (a) Copies of any reports relevant to NZS 8510:2017 on previous inspections that may have been carried out;
- (b) The number and location of high use and low use areas in the property;
- (c) Information that would indicate soil contamination;
- (d) If the property has a forced-air heating or cooling system, and if so, the location of the intakes;
- (e) The number and location of exhaust fans from the property;
- (f) Whether the property has an on-site waste water system;
- (g) If any renovations or extensive cleaning has been carried out;
- (h) Whether the occupier of the property has been informed that testing is to be carried out and consent has been provided;
- (i) The presence of occupants or pets that may be present at the property.

The sampling procedures shall include guidelines for the selection of sampling sites based on NZS 8510 requirements.

Records arising from site inspection and sample site selection shall include the following where relevant, taking into account NZS 8510:2017 clause 3.3.3.1 and the requirement for accredited samplers to generate a sampling plan including:

- (a) Details of all high use areas including floor areas and number of samples required
- (b) Details of limited use areas, with reasons for sampling or not sampling
- (c) Description of major surface types present in each area
- (d) A list of additional samples taken due to swabbing recovery issues (see 3.3.3.1(f) and (g))

2.2.2 Field Blanks

Field blanks are required to be taken as a means of confirming that false positives cannot be attributed to the kit or sample handling process. The field blank needs to be handled in the same way as a real sample but does not come in contact with any contaminated surfaces.

Screening assessments

A field blank must be taken during the first assessment and then included every 20 sample results thereafter. As per NZS 8510:2017, a field composite made up of multiple primary samples is considered as single sample result. Samplers undertaking sampling for screening assessments need to ensure that the data for field blanks are recorded in such a way that they are traceable to the date sampling was carried out, the materials (kits) used and the job are linked to. Best practice would be to include at least one field blank per address.

Detailed assessment

A field blank must be included with at least one for each address and then every 20 sample results thereafter. For example if there are 25 samples taken at one address, the sampler will need to include at least two field blanks.

2.2.3 Testing

Appendix A of NZS 8510:2017 sets out the test methods currently recognised for the quantitative analysis for methamphetamine from wipe samples.

Laboratories which undertake testing of building and insulation materials may also seek accreditation for the analysis for the methamphetamine (and other related chemicals such as amphetamine, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine), however as testing of these materials for methamphetamine (and related chemical compounds) is not currently required or referenced in NZS 8510:2017 these activities will be listed on the Schedule to the Certificate of Accreditation separately to those activities carried out in accordance with NZS 8510:2017.

2.3 Sampling Materials/Kits

Where sampling kits are provided by testing laboratories, in particular, the users of kits need to ensure these are identified in some way i.e. date of preparation or batch number. These details need to be documented on the sampling records to ensure there is sufficient information for a trace-back if there are found to be subsequent problems with the kits.

Laboratories preparing kits for sampling activities, for either their own use, or provision to external samplers need to ensure records of preparation such as dates, batches of solvent used, etc. are retained.

Laboratories are not accredited for the provision of sampling kits. Users are therefore responsible for confirming the suitability of the kit at the time of use i.e. checking the size of template, the number, size and ply of swabs and that the tubes contain solvent.

A laboratory may, as per Appendix B of NZS 8510:2017, seek accreditation for the validation of screening technologies. The requirements of Appendix B would need to be met, including making publically available a list of technologies which have been validated and found to be suitable for use to meet the limits of detection as required by NZS 8510:2017.

2.4 Equipment Management

Equipment requiring calibration will be that used by testing laboratories and the requirements for calibration are set out in the Specific Criteria (AS LAB C2).

Records of calibrations carried out in-house must confirm traceability of measurement in accordance with the IANZ Technical Policy No.1: *Traceability of Measurement* (AS TP1). This is normally achieved by the record specifically identifying the reference item used, the date and the person performing the calibration using the documented procedure.

2.5 Proficiency Testing

Periodically programmes are offered by organisations such as the Australian National Measurement Institute. Testing laboratories need to ensure that when a programme does become available they participate and are able to demonstrate satisfactory performance.

For organisations accredited to ISO/IEC 17020:2012, proficiency testing programme participation is required if the organisation performs tests (measurements) as part of the accredited inspections.

2.6 Reporting the Results

The results of any activity, sampling or testing need to be reported clearly, unambiguously and objectively in a report that includes all the information as agreed with the customer and of the methodology (where applicable) and in accordance with the requirements of NZS 8510.

NZS 8510:2017 sets out requirements for the three types of reports arising from sampling activities:

- (a) Screening assessment report (see section 3.2.6 of NZS 8510:2017)
- (b) Detailed assessment report (see section 3.3.6 of NZS 8510:2017)
- (c) Post-decontamination report (see section 5.5 of NZS 8510:2017)

Test reports produced by accredited testing laboratories need to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 (current version).

Test reports must be attached to the sampling reports in their entirety.

Reports issued by inspection bodies and laboratories accredited for inspection, sampling and testing activities, shall carry the IANZ endorsement.

Clearance reports and/or clearance certificates can only be issued by the company undertaking the decontamination work which must be independent of the sampling and/or testing activities.

Recommendations for further actions that could be taken, for example, with regard to decontamination activities are not covered by accreditation. Where a report may contain recommendations on action that could be taken with regard to decontamination, for example, the organisation issuing the report needs to

ensure that any claims of accreditation are correctly linked to the activities for which accreditation is held i.e. sampling or testing.

2.6.1 Interpretation of results

The interpretation of the results is the responsibility of the sampler, with respect to how the sampling was undertaken. The interpretation of results is limited to reporting compliance with the limits set out in NZS 8510:2017.

An example of such a statement may be:

“The results of the detailed assessment against the requirements of NZS 8510:2017 showed the property to have levels of methamphetamine contamination higher than that permitted by the New Zealand Standards”.

For a detailed assessment report this could be extended to include details about the areas of the property to clarify the extent of contamination.

Statements such as “this property is unsuitable for habitation” are not appropriate and shall not be included in reports carrying IANZ endorsement.

2.6.2 Recommendation for further actions

It is acknowledged that the customers of the inspection bodies/testing laboratories taking the samples and subsequently interpreting the results to show a property to be contaminated will be seeking guidance as to what to do next with regard to staying in the property, locating a decontamination agency, etc. and while they may look to the accredited organisation for this information, this type of guidance is essentially not an activity covered by accreditation.

Providing a recommendation on what should happen as a next step if a property is found to be contaminated with methamphetamine is an activity which should be undertaken taking into account the risk associated with providing such information. Bearing this in mind, IANZ will accept recommendations on reports aligned with those immediately below to be included in a report carrying the IANZ endorsement.

Recommendations that are linked directly to the specification may be included, such as:

- (a) “As a clearance certificate cannot be issued for a property which is contaminated, as defined by the standard, it is recommended that, as a minimum, the following areas, as identified in the site plan, should be decontaminated”,
- (b) “As it is generally not possible to effectively decontaminate soft furnishings (carpet, curtains, beds etc.), electronic equipment, toys and books etc., and as contaminated items could be a source of recontamination after a property is cleaned, it is recommended that disposal of these and similar items is considered after seeking advice from reputable decontamination contractors, on a case by case basis”.
- (c) “To avoid continued exposure to methamphetamine, at levels exceeding those defined in NZS 8510:2017, to avoid unnecessary exposure to cleaning materials and to prevent recontamination of cleaned areas, it is recommended the property is vacated during decontamination work”.

Recommendations similar to the following will not be acceptable in reports with the IANZ endorsement:

- (a) Recommendations not to decontaminate specific areas or items
- (b) Recommendations of cleaning materials or methods
- (c) Recommendation of cleaning contractors to be used
- (d) Recommendations of a specific testing laboratory to use (with the exception of advising the customer the testing laboratory must have accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025)
- (e) Recommendations to dispose of any specific items or personal effects

2.7 IANZ Endorsement Criteria

In addition to the rules set out in *Procedures and Conditions of Accreditation* AS 1, the following requirements in relation claims of accreditation status must be adhered to:

- (a) Organisations (testing laboratories or inspection bodies) shall only make reference to accredited activities under taken by themselves, and not to those activities which are permanently outsourced (subcontracted);
- (b) If an accredited organisation wishes to make reference to the use of an accredited subcontractor for activities not undertaken by themselves, this needs to be clearly stated in all advertising material and needs to include the name of organisation undertaking the subcontracted activity;
- (c) Reference to activities subcontracted needs to be documented in the same block of text as that which claims the scope of work undertaken by the accredited organisation i.e.:

“Sampling and analysis is undertaken by an accredited organisation. The sampling is carried out by ourselves and we use “*name of the testing laboratory*” to carry out testing”

Accredited organisations are expected to ensure that where their client(s) reference(s) the accreditation status (testing laboratories or inspection bodies), the references made are an accurate reflection of the accredited scope of activities i.e. accredited for sampling activities etc., and preferably include the name of the accredited organisation.

3 References

1. IANZ Technical Policy No.1: *Traceability of Measurement* (AS TP1)
2. IANZ Technical Policy No.2: *Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities* (AS TP2)
3. IANZ Specific Criteria for Accreditation - *Chemical Testing* (AS LAB C2)
4. IANZ Specific Criteria for Accreditation – *Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012* (AS IB C1)
5. IANZ Specific Criteria for Accreditation - *Specific Procedures and Conditions for Inspection Body Accreditation* (AS IB C2)
6. IANZ Specific Criteria for Accreditation – *Competency Model Requirements* (AS IB C3)
7. IANZ *Procedures and Conditions for Accreditation* (AS1)
8. NZS 8510:2017 *Testing and decontamination of methamphetamine-contaminated properties*

Appendix 1: Requirements for independent third party organisations

Accredited organisations performing work covered by NZS 8510:2017 sections 3.3 and 5 shall meet the independence requirements below.

- (a) The organisation shall be independent of the parties involved.
- (b) The organisation and its personnel shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their independence of judgment or the integrity of its inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities.

NOTE 1: This does not preclude exchanging technical information between the organisation and its client (e.g. explanation of findings, or clarifying requirements or training).

NOTE 2: This does not preclude the purchase, ownership or use of the types of property included in the scope of accreditation that are directly necessary for the operations of the organisation, or the purchase, ownership or use of the items for personal purposes by the personnel.

NOTE 3: Potential conflicts could include but are not limited to owning, manufacturing (building), buying, selling, using or maintaining (managing) the types of property within the organisation's scope of accreditation. In particular the organisation shall not have any business or financial interest in any methamphetamine decontamination organisation.

- (c) The organisation shall not be a part of a legal entity that is engaged in owning, manufacturing (building), buying, selling, using or maintaining (managing) the types of property within the organisation's scope of accreditation.
- (d) The organisation shall not be linked to a separate legal entity engaged in owning, manufacturing (building), buying, selling, using or maintaining (managing) the types of property within the organisation's scope of accreditation by the following:
 - (i) Common ownership, except where the owners have no ability to influence the outcome of an inspection or test;
EXAMPLE 1: A cooperative type of structure where there are large numbers of stakeholders, but they (individually or as a group) have no ability to influence inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities.
EXAMPLE 2: A holding company consisting of several separate legal entities (sister companies) under a common mother company, where neither the sister companies nor the mother company can influence inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities.
 - (ii) Common ownership appointees on the boards or equivalent of the organizations, except where these have functions that have no influence on inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities;
EXAMPLE A: bank financing a company insists on an appointee to the board who will overview how the company is managed but will not be involved in any decision-making.
 - (iii) Directly reporting to the same higher level of management, except where this cannot influence inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities;
NOTE: Reporting to the same higher level of management is permitted on matters other than owning, manufacturing (building), buying, selling, using or maintaining (managing) the types of property within the organisation's scope of accreditation.
 - (iv) Contractual commitments, or other means that may have an ability to influence the outcome of inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities.

Appendix 2: Independence Worksheet

Step	Question	Answers*	Go to step
A1	Does the organisation provide inspection/sampling services exclusively to the organisation of which it is a part?	YES	X
		NO	A2
A2	Does the organisation have any other business activities that could possibly conflict with the independence of judgement or integrity of its inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities?	YES*	X
		NO	A3
A3	Do any of the organisation's personnel (directors, employees, contractors etc.) engage in any activities that could possibly conflict with the independence of judgement or integrity of the organisation's inspections, sample selection or sample collection activities?	YES*	X
		NO*	A4
A4	Is the organisation part of a legal entity that is engaged in the manufacture (building), buying, selling, ownership, maintenance (management) or use of the properties inspected or the type of properties included in the organisation's scope of accreditation?	YES*	X
		NO	A5
A5	Is the organisation linked, by common ownership, to a separate legal entity that is engaged in the manufacture (building), buying, selling, ownership, maintenance (management) or use of the properties inspected or the type of properties included in the organisation's scope of accreditation?	YES*	A6
		NO	A7
A6	Is there convincing evidence to demonstrate how owners are prevented from influencing the outcome of an inspection?	YES*	A7
		NO	X
A7	Is the organisation linked, by common ownership appointees on the boards, or equivalent of the organizations, to a separate legal entity engaged in the manufacture (building), buying, selling, ownership, maintenance (management) or use of the properties inspected or the type of properties included in the organisation's scope of accreditation?	YES*	A8
		NO	A9
A8	Is there convincing evidence that the appointees have functions that can have no influence on the outcome of inspections?	YES*	A9
		NO	X
A9	Is the organisation linked, by directly reporting to the same higher level of management , to a separate legal entity engaged in the manufacture (building), buying, selling, ownership, maintenance, (management) or use of the properties inspected or the type of properties included in the organisation's scope of accreditation?	YES*	A10
		NO	A11
A10	Is there convincing evidence that reporting lines do not introduce any incentive to influence the outcome of inspections?	YES*	A11
		NO	X
A11	The organisation meets the independence expectations of NZS 8510:2017		
X	The organisation cannot be accredited for inspections, sample selection or sample collection in accordance with NZS 8510:2017		

*Answers with means evidence is required