



# Supplementary Criteria for Accreditation **Methamphetamine Contamination** **Sampling and Testing**

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# Supplementary Criteria for Accreditation

## Methamphetamine Contamination Sampling and Testing

### AS LAB C2.4 / AS IB C1.2

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626 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051  
Private Bag 28908, Remuera, Auckland 1541, New Zealand  
Telephone: +64 9 525 6655  
Email: [info@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ianz.govt.nz)  
Internet: [www.ianz.govt.nz](http://www.ianz.govt.nz)

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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

Laboratories and inspection bodies shall meet the independence and impartiality requirements of their accreditation. Appendix 1 provides further detail on independence and impartiality criteria for laboratories and inspection bodies.

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 have 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.

Wardrobes and cupboards may be considered high use areas. Where a decision is made not to sample a wardrobe or cupboard, the areas not sampled and the rationale shall be recorded and reported.

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. Quantitative testing, for the purposes of complying with NZS 8510:2017, must be carried out by a laboratory with reference to this standard on their scope of accredited testing.

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

NZS 8510 requires accredited organisations (testing laboratories and inspection bodies) to meet the independence and impartiality requirements of their accreditation. The following parts provide additional detail on impartiality and independence requirements specific to this field of accreditation.

The following sections largely apply to accredited organisations performing work covered by NZS 8510:2017 sections 3.3 and 5

It is acknowledged that some or all of the following requirements may not be applicable to laboratories undertaking analysis of samples only and potential risks may be mitigated by having processes in place to anonymise samples so that staff do not have any means of identifying their source.

Similarly, parts of the following criteria may not be applicable to inspection bodies that meet the criteria for independence Type A. Inspection bodies or their personnel who have interests in property may be unable to meet the requirements of a Type A but instead may be Type C (see Annex A of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and IANZ criteria document AS IB C1).

- (a) Accredited organisations need to consider personnel when identifying risks to impartiality and/or independence. This includes, but is not limited to, all staff, contractors, subcontractors, franchisees, board members, directors, shareholders and management.
- (b) Relevant relationships shall be examined. These may include, but are not limited to:
  - (i) Intra-organisational – relationships between the laboratory/inspection body and other parts of the same organisation or legal entity;
  - (ii) Inter-organisational - relationships that the accredited organisation may have with separate organisations or separate legal entities;
  - (iii) Personnel - relationships that personnel may have with separate organisations, persons and legal entities (see (a) above also);
  - (iv) Common ownership or management - relationships that exist between the accredited organisation and other organisations because of common ownership or reporting to the same higher level management;
  - (v) Governance – relationships of any appointees, directors or shareholders on boards or committees.
- (c) It is not appropriate for a property manager, agent or an individual with an interest in a property to undertake site inspection, sample site selection, sample taking, results evaluation or reporting for the property they have an interest in.
- (d) It is not appropriate for a property manager, agent or an individual with an interest in a property to undertake site inspection, sample site selection, sample taking, results evaluation or reporting for a property in a competing market (see (g) also).
- (e) Interests in property include:
  - (i) Organisations or individuals having an interest in property for personal purposes. For example owning or renting property to live in;
  - (ii) Organisations or individuals having an interest in property for commercial purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, property investment, property trading, property speculation, property letting, property maintenance and property management;
  - (iii) Organisations or individuals being involved in the provision of accommodation. For example, temporary housing, refuge centres, shelters, accommodation provided to workers, hostels, hotels, motels, multi-dwelling units.
- (f) Property includes residential, commercial, boats and road vehicles.
- (g) While it is expected that personnel that have an interest in property as per (e) are excluded from specific activities, there may still be a risks that need to be identified and managed. For example, if an employee or manager of an accredited organisation owns a rental property and is excluded from sampling their own property, there is still a risk that the employee or manager could be sampling properties that are marketed competitively against their own rental property. This is just one example and a number of different risks could manifest. Accredited organisations will be expected to have

effective policies and procedures in place to ensure that they are not suspected of biasing results for or against properties depending on the organisation or its personnel's interests.

- (h) Accredited organisations should carefully consider and document all cases where they are requested to perform activities for a person or organisation they have a link or relationship to. The accredited organisation must undertake and document an appropriate impartiality risk analysis. It is recommended that such requests for work are declined and the event is recorded in the organisation's impartiality register (or similar). If an organisation proceeds with the work, it must ensure that the person(s) undertaking the work on behalf of the accredited organisation can be objective and impartial.
- (i) In all cases providers of site inspection, sample site selection, sample taking, results evaluation and reporting services shall be independent of persons and organisations that carry out methamphetamine decontamination.
- (j) It is acknowledged that accredited organisations may receive requests to recommend decontamination companies. Accredited organisations should approach such requests carefully and ensure that a specific company is not recommended. This should be identified as a risk to impartiality and managed as appropriate by the accredited organisation.