
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 8:24 am
To: Emma Russell <emma.russell@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: formaldehyde exposure - IANZ assessment

Kia ora Emma

Thank you for your email.

Brian Young passed your message on to me as he is currently on leave. Please find answers below to your questions. Please note we can only provide factual answers to your queries and are not in a position to provide our views on the matters raised.

I understand IANZ did an assessment of formaldehyde exposure (**IANZ did not complete an assessment of only formaldehyde exposure – the assessment was a conformity assessment against ISO 15189, part of which briefly covers accommodation safety (4.1.1.4e and 5.2.1))** at a Anatomic Pathology Service in Mt Wellington in July last year, to check it was complying with new Worksafe Exposure Standards (WES) (**IANZ - The new WES do not come into effect until November 2022, therefore they are not yet enforceable. However the IANZ report did mention that the current time weighted average formaldehyde exposure levels would not be in compliance with the new WES and the laboratory was asked to submit a plan for how it would comply.**) Below are the recommendations IANZ made, outlined in a Auckland DHB H&S report. I have some questions about that –

Note: IANZ assessments are evidence-based and rely on the provision of objective evidence by the client organisations to support potential outcomes of any assessment activity.

1. Were IANZ aware that formaldehyde monitors were removed by Auckland DHB in March when it carried out this assessment? **Yes.**
2. With the monitors removed, did IANZ believe there was enough other safety measures in place to protect staff and met WES? **In the absence of formaldehyde monitoring further information was requested pertaining to alternative safety measures.**
3. Did IANZ feel Auckland DHB was doing enough to ensure staff were protected and met WES? **There was insufficient evidence to support a robust safety plan at the time of the assessment. Further information was requested.**
4. How did IANZ know exposure levels were above the WES levels which were being introduced gradually? **An external contractor had undertaken a review of environmental formaldehyde levels, at the request of Anatomic Pathology Service, with a summary report available for IANZ review.**
5. Was IANZ concerned by how the DHB was handling the matter? **Further information was requested to determine the adequacy of ADHB response.**
6. How did this pathology lab's health and safety measures compare to other sites exposed to formaldehyde? **We are not in a position to comment on other accredited organisations performance as this is confidential information.**

International Accreditation New Zealand - July 2021 ♣ Resolve the dangerously cramped work-space conditions ♣ Resolve the issue of inadequate ventilation ♣ Resolve the issue of no early warning system ♣ Address the workplace culture of staff being discouraged to report incidents ♣ Resolve the matter of ADHB Occupational health not responding to staff ♣ Resolve the management of large biopsies ♣ Resolve the matter that exposure levels are above the WES levels being introduced in 2022 ♣ Resolve the non-compliant hazardous material storage

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate in getting in touch.

Ngā mihi/ Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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