



WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO METH SAMPLING COMPANIES NEED TO CONDUCT METH TESTING?

The Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill No.2 will shortly pass into law. This law formalises meth testing and tightens up on the industries requirements and qualifications required for a company to be able to conduct testing legally.

Below are the details you need to know when you employ a meth sampler to test a property.

You must use a qualified sampling company in order for the test to comply with the law and prevent scrutiny of you and the sampling. Failing to comply with the law will result in the dismissal of any evidence that an unqualified tester has gathered at any hearing. This may result in a lost case and loss of damage claims.

NZQA CERTIFIED SAMPLER *Screening Assessments Only*

The law requires an NZQA Certified Sampler to conduct **Screening Assessments**. This level of qualification means they can **only conduct Screening Assessments**. A higher IANZ qualification is required for **Detailed Site Investigations**.

NZS 8510:2017



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NZQA CERTIFIED SAMPLER - Certified to conduct Screening Assessments Only.

IANZ ACCREDITED INSPECTION BODY *All Testing and Detailed Assessments*

When a property fails its initial screening assessment, the insurance company will engage an IANZ Accredited Inspection Company as **required by law**. IANZ Accreditation allows the company to conduct **Detailed Site Investigations** for **Pre-Decontamination testing** and then **Post-Decontamination testing**.

Only IANZ Accredited Companies can issue a report to a Decontamination Company that allows them to issue a **Clearance Certificate** for that property, which allows occupation again.



IANZ ACCREDITED LABORATORY *Independent Analysis of Samples*

IANZ Accreditation for a Laboratory allows the lab to **conduct independent analysis** on Methamphetamine samples provided to them by Certified or Accredited sampling technicians.

Some Laboratories also have the ability to collect samples within **the scope of their accreditation**. That part of their accreditation may **only** be for sample collection, or they may **also** be accredited for **IANZ reporting**.

Only an **IANZ Accredited Inspection Body** or an **IANZ Accredited Laboratory** that has **IANZ level reporting within the scope of their accreditation**, are able to provide a Decontamination Company with an accredited **Detailed Assessment report**. This report can then be used by the

Decontaminator to issue a **Clearance Certificate** allowing occupation of a property post decontamination.



Salient points from the coming law are below:

- It provides a lawful and legally enforceable way for a landlord to protect their assets from Methamphetamine Contamination and damage.
- Landlords will have a power of entry to their property in order to conduct contamination testing.
- Landlords will only be able to evict tenants if they have proof that contamination occurred during their tenancy.
- To establish proof, a pre-tenancy and then a post tenancy Methamphetamine Screening test ensures that the obligations of the law are met, along with insurance obligations.
- Landlords must also disclose to their tenants their insurance details.
- If a Landlord choose to not have any insurance cover, they must disclose to their tenant that they do not have any methamphetamine contamination insurance. They then have no recourse at any tenancy tribunal hearing to claim insurance for damage.
- Landlords are liable for a \$4000 fine per offence and exemplary damages and back paid rent if providing an unlawful premises.

To ensure competence of testing and reporting that cannot be questioned in the future, use qualified companies whose methodology for testing and reports meet the law and are proven and accepted at the tribunal.

A list of Accredited companies can be found here:

Search Keyword: Methamphetamine

<https://www.ianz.govt.nz/directory/>

At this stage a list of NZQA Companies is not available, however, **Meth Xpert NZ** are both **IANZ Accredited** and **NZQA Qualified Samplers**. It is anticipated that a list of NZQA Certified and IANZ Accredited companies will be available on the Methamphetamine Testing Industry Association ([MTIANZ](#)) website in the near future.

If you would like to book a training session with us about the coming changes [please click here.](#)

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