Two of the fundamental purposes of laboratory accreditation are to foster continuous improvement and to promote best practice. Thus, standards, guidelines and expectations will constantly change, perhaps every time someone publishes a paper in one of the many relevant professional journals.

It will never be possible, therefore, to issue a definitive list of guidelines and criteria, and the onus is on laboratory staff to keep up with quality and technical advances in their field. An added value from the IANZ assessment process is that it provides an environment for the dissemination of quality initiatives and technical improvements from a huge range of sources, including the assessors themselves.

Having said that, one of the commonest questions we receive is “What guidelines and standards do you use?” The following lists some of the standards and guidelines we commonly refer to. The list can be expected to grow and we will attempt to update it regularly.

2. ANZSBT Guidelines for Pretransfusion Laboratory Practice, 5th Edition 2007
3. ANZSBT Guidelines for Laboratory Assessment of Fetomaternal Haemorrhage 1st Edition 2002
4. Archives NZ: DA262District Health Boards General Disposal Authority 2010
5. AS/NZS 2243 Safety in Laboratories
   i. AS/NZS 2243.1:2005 Safety in laboratories - Planning and operational aspects
   ii. AS/NZS 2243.2:2006 Safety in laboratories - Chemical aspects
   iii. AS/NZS 2243.3:2010 Safety in laboratories - Microbiological safety and containment
   iv. AS/NZS 2243.5:2004 Safety in laboratories - Non-ionizing radiations - Electromagnetic, sound and ultrasound
   v. AS/NZS 2243.6:2010 Safety in laboratories - Plant and equipment aspects
   vi. AS/NZS 2243.8:2014 Safety in laboratories - Fume cupboards
   vii. AS/NZS 2243.9:2009 Safety in laboratories - Recirculating fume cabinets
   viii. AS/NZS 2243.10:2004 Safety in laboratories - Storage of chemicals
6. AS/NZS 2982:2010 Laboratory design and construction
7. AS 3864.2 2012 Medical refrigeration equipment - For the storage of blood and blood products. User-related requirements for care, maintenance, performance verification and calibration.
8. AS/NZS 4308:2008 Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine
9. ASCIA: Skin prick testing for the diagnosis of allergic disease. A manual for practitioners 2013
10. ASM: Guidelines for Assuring Quality of Medical Microbiological Culture Media, 2nd Edition 2012
11. Coroners Act 2006 revised 2013
13. CLSI: Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
14. EUCAST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
15. Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2013
16. Health (Retention of Health Information) Regulations 1996; reprinted July 2013
18. IANZ Technical Guide: Laboratory Balances Calibration requirements 2002
23. ISO 15190:2003 Medical Laboratories - Requirements for safety
24. ISO 22870:2006 Point-of-care testing (POCT) Requirements for quality and competence
25. ISO 15189:2012 Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence
26. ISO TS 22367:2008 Risk management in the Medical Laboratory
29. MOH: National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza: Collection and handling of human specimens for laboratory diagnosis of influenza with pandemic potential 2006
30. MSL Technical Guide 1: The Ice Point 2002
32. MSL Technical Guide 7: Calibrating Standard Weights 2004
33. MSL Technical Guide 8: Calibration of Stop-watches 2004
34. MSL Technical Guide 12: Assuring the Quality of Weighing Results 2012
37. NCSP: Policies and Standards Section 5 Providing a Laboratory Service
38. NCSP: Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand 2008
39. NCSP: Guidance on HPV Testing Update 2010
42. NPAAC: Classification of Human Genetic Testing: A Supplementary Guide to Laboratory Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for Nucleic Acid Detection and Analysis 2007
44. NPAAC Requirements for Medical Testing of Microbial Nucleic Acids 2nd Edition 2013
45. NPAAC Requirements for Human Nucleic Acids 2nd Edition 2013
46. NPAAC: Requirements for Cytogenetic Testing 3rd Edition 2013
47. NPAAC: Requirements for the Facilities and Operations of Mortuaries, 3rd Edition 2013
48. NPAAC: Requirements for the Retention of Laboratory Records and Diagnostic Material; 6th Edition 2013
50. Occupational Safety and Health Information Series: Managing Health and Safety Risks in New Zealand Mortuaries, Guidelines to promote safe working conditions 2000
51. WHO: Ethical Practice in Laboratory Medicine and Forensic Pathology 2000