

Clandestine drug laboratories

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Clandestine laboratory scenes contain hazardous substances

All activity surrounding hazardous substances is governed by numerous pieces of legislation, codes of practice, operating procedures and guidelines. Going outside of these constraints exposes staff and the public to risks. It may also leave the Police open to liability.

The 'Clan Lab' team provides a 24/7 response. They have trained staff and subject experts throughout the country available to attend and provide advice - Do not hesitate to call them.

Clan Lab on-call numbers

s.6(c) OIA

Safety information about clandestine drug laboratories

s.6(c) OIA

Download the Clan Lab Scenes - Hazardous Substances Poster - ideal for on station walls - providing safety information for front line staff:

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[Clan_Lab_Scenes_-_Hazardous_Substances_Poster.pdf](#)

347.29 KB

Investigating and processing clandestine drug laboratories

For information about investigating and processing clandestine drug laboratories, see:

National Clandestine Laboratories Response Team Standard Operating Procedures:

s.6(c) OIA

These operating procedures apply to **all trained clandestine laboratory response staff**.

Standard Operating Procedures For District Staff:

s.6(c) OIA

These operating procedures apply to **all response staff**.

Both operating procedures have been compiled with safety as the first priority (see [Health and safety duties](#)' below). They aim to provide a practical guide on how to minimise the risk of accident or injury that can arise from dealing with clandestine laboratory investigations.

The need for organisational and individual compliance with the [Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996](#) and other Health and Safety legislation relating to the handling and disposal of hazardous materials is critical.

The operating procedures set out safe investigation techniques and work practices, and also provide guidance for investigation staff from the pre-planning stage to the conclusion of an investigation. The tactical considerations outlined indicate some important matters relating to the planned termination of operations, and if there is any concern about the practice to be adopted in a particular investigation, advice should be sought from the National Coordinator: [NCLRT](#) at Investigations Support: Upper North (ISUN) or the Detective Inspector: ISUN. If resolution cannot be achieved then the matter must be elevated to the Detective Superintendent: ISUN, District Commander, or National Crime Manager levels because of the risks of potentially unsafe practices.

Children and young persons in clandestine laboratories

The 'Joint Standard Operating Procedures for children and young persons in clandestine laboratories':

- are the joint working arrangements between **Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children)** and **Police**. They relate to any child or young person at risk from exposure to the illicit drug manufacturing process or an environment where volatile, toxic, or flammable chemicals have been used or stored for the purpose of manufacturing illicit drugs.
- sets out safe work practices and investigation techniques for both agencies.

s.6(c) OIA

These operating procedures apply to all response staff.

Health and safety duties

Maximising safety and minimising risk

Maximising safety and eliminating or minimising risk at work is the responsibility of all Police employees and persons engaged by Police to provide a service including contractors and their employees, trainees, interns and volunteers. It is delivered through meeting the obligations under the [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#) and Police safety policies.

A key enabler is the application of the [TENR-Operational threat assessment](#) in the workplace.

The expectation of the Commissioner and the Act is that persons in the workplace will take reasonable care to ensure that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons, comply as far as they are reasonably able to with any reasonable instruction that is given in order to comply with the [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#) or regulations under that Act. They will co-operate with any reasonable policy or procedure relating to health or safety at the workplace that has been notified to them and take immediate action to stop any perceived or potential breach of the act or if impractical, immediately report the matter to a supervisor.

Health and safety should be an everyday conversation.

Relevant Police instructions include:

- [Hazard management](#)
- [Health, safety and wellbeing](#)
- The following documents in relation to the safe investigation and processing of clandestine laboratories...

National Clandestine Laboratories Response Team Standard Operating Procedures:

s.6(c) OIA

Standard Operating Procedures For District Staff:

s.6(c) OIA

Joint Standard Operating Procedures for children and young persons in clandestine laboratories:

s.6(c) OIA