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7 February 2024

Sue Waters - Interim National Chief Allied Health, Scientific and Technical Officer, Te Whatu Ora  
*Via email*

Shelagh Thomas - President, New Zealand Sterile Supply Association  
*Via email*

Carlton Irving - Clinical Chief Officer, Allied Health, Te Aka Whai Ora  
*Via email*

Aaron Watson - General Manager, SC Bio Ltd  
*Via email*

Private Surgical Hospital Network Members  
*Via email*

Designated Auditing Agencies  
*Via email*

Tēnā koutou katoa,


**Re: Implementation of AS 5369:2003 for Sterile Services**

This letter provides clarification regarding standards for the reprocessing of medical and surgical equipment. As of 15 December 2023, both AS/NZS 4187:2014 and AS/NZ 4815-2006 were replaced by AS 5369:2023. New Zealand representatives were involved in the development of AS 5369:2023 and it reflects current best practice. While this is an Australian standard, it is the most up-to-date version of the previous standards and should be utilised in the absence of a New Zealand-specific standard.

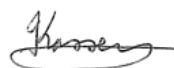
AS 5369:2023 is the standard which HealthCERT will expect sterile services to demonstrate compliance against through their evidence of internal audit processes. The Ministry of Health will liaise with relevant agencies to reinstate a shared Australian/New Zealand standard so that we continue to have appropriate standards which are fit for purpose in our environment.

Please circulate this letter across your networks.

Ngā manaakitanga,



Lauren Hancock  
Acting Chief Allied Health Professions Officer



Kirsten Lassey  
Manager, HealthCERT