

LIMS Selection Checklist

Eight practical steps to help you evaluate laboratory information management systems and choose the right platform for your lab.

1 Define Your Lab Requirements

- ☐ Document current workflows and bottlenecks
- ☐ List must-have vs. nice-to-have features
- ☐ Identify manual processes to automate
- ☐ Align stakeholders across lab, quality, IT, finance, marketing, and management

2 Evaluate Core LIMS Features

- ☐ Sample tracking and lifecycle management
- ☐ Inventory, instrument and freezer management
- ☐ Reporting tools and dashboards
- ☐ Training management
- ☐ LIMS customer portal
- ☐ CSV data import
- ☐ Approval processes
- ☐ Configurable to support compliance
- ☐ Protocol execution
- ☐ Workflow automation capabilities
- ☐ Document control and quality events
- ☐ Audit trails and compliance support
- ☐ User-friendly interface
- ☐ Patient report generation
- ☐ API-ready architecture
- ☐ Profile and permission set management

3 Assess Industry Fit

- ☐ Does the LIMS support your industry (biotech, pharma, QC, manufacturing, research, etc.)?
- ☐ Does it match your lab type (R&D, QC, NGS, analytical, core facility, etc.)?
- ☐ Are regulatory requirements (21 CFR Part 11, CAP/CLIA, HIPAA, GDPR, GMP, ISO 17025, etc.) supported?

4 Review Integration Capabilities

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| ☐ Instruments and lab equipment | ☐ ERP, CRM, EHR or other enterprise systems |
| ☐ Microsoft and Google tools | ☐ APIs or custom integration options |

5 Understand Pricing and Costs

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| ☐ Licensing model (subscription vs. perpetual) | ☐ Implementation and onboarding costs |
| ☐ Customization expenses | ☐ Ongoing support and maintenance fees |

6 Plan for Scalability

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| ☐ Can the system grow with your lab? | ☐ Does it support increasing sample volume? |
| ☐ Can new workflows be added easily? | ☐ Can new users be easily added? |

7 Evaluate Vendor Support

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| ☐ Implementation partnership and onboarding guidance | ☐ Science SMEs on staff who understand lab workflows |
| ☐ Training resources and documentation | ☐ Customer support responsiveness |
| ☐ Product roadmap and future updates | ☐ Expertise in your industry |

8 Test Before You Decide

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| ☐ Gather feedback from trusted review platforms such as G2 and Capterra | ☐ Request a demo tailored to your workflows |
| ☐ Run real-world use cases | ☐ Ask if a customized trial version is available |

Talk to a LIMS expert

Evaluating LIMS solutions, or just want an experienced perspective on your lab's requirements? The Third Wave Analytics team is happy to answer your questions, review your workflows, and help determine whether Lockbox LIMS is the right fit.

[Contact us today](#)

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