



**Report**  
**Round 57**  
**November 2015**



Asbestos In Material Scheme

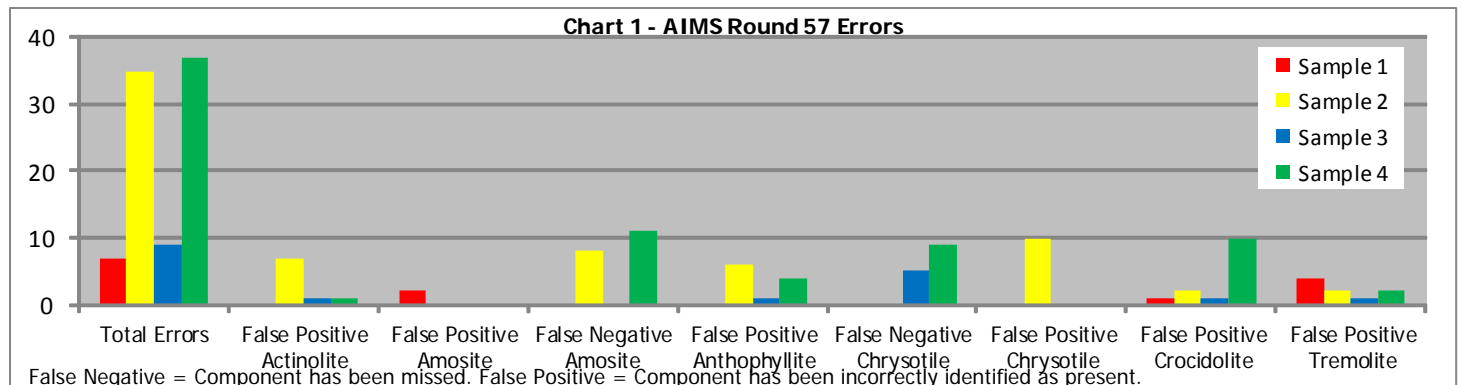
# Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

## Round 57 Sample Details

All samples were prepared for circulation following our normal validation process and were scanned using stereo-zoom microscopy to assess homogeneity and suitability for the round. 10% of all samples prepared for the round were analysed and validated by 14 independent laboratories using either PLM or SEM analytical techniques. All of the validation laboratories identified all of the asbestos components present in the samples. No additional asbestos components were found in any of the 10% of samples that were validated. The majority of errors from round 57 were obtained for Samples 2 & 4. Sample 2 was a manufactured cement sample containing amosite. The amosite used in the sample contained some curlier fibres requiring thorough PLM analysis to ensure correct identification. Sample 4 was a commercial briquette lagging sample containing amosite and chrysotile. Lagging type matrices can be challenging to analyse and samples need to be broken up and carefully searched at both stereo-zoom and PLM stages to correctly identify all asbestos types present.

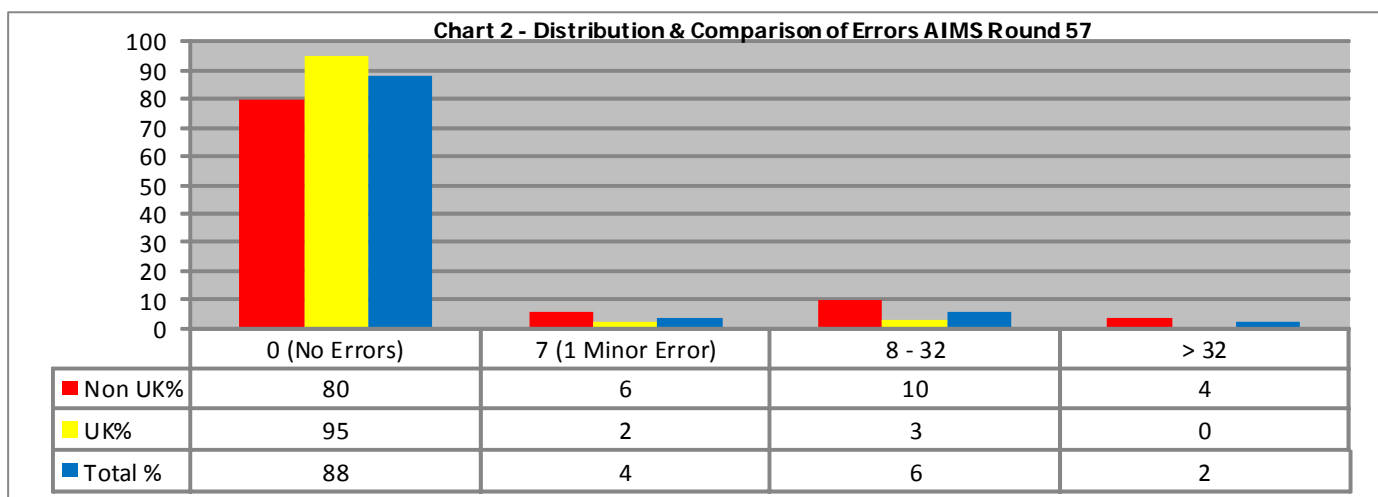
Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	243	Felt & Bituminous Paint (Manufactured)	No Asbestos
2	249	Cement (Manufactured)	Amosite
3	251	Floor Tile (Commercial)	Chrysotile
4	252	Briquettes (Commercial)	Amosite & Chrysotile

## 1. Type Of Errors Obtained



## 2. Round Scores

Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of scores for all participating laboratories. 290 (88%) laboratories obtained a score of zero in this round, indicating that these laboratories had not made any errors. The distribution of scores obtained by UK (United Kingdom) and Non-UK laboratories is also compared; 172 (95%) UK laboratories and 118 (80%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





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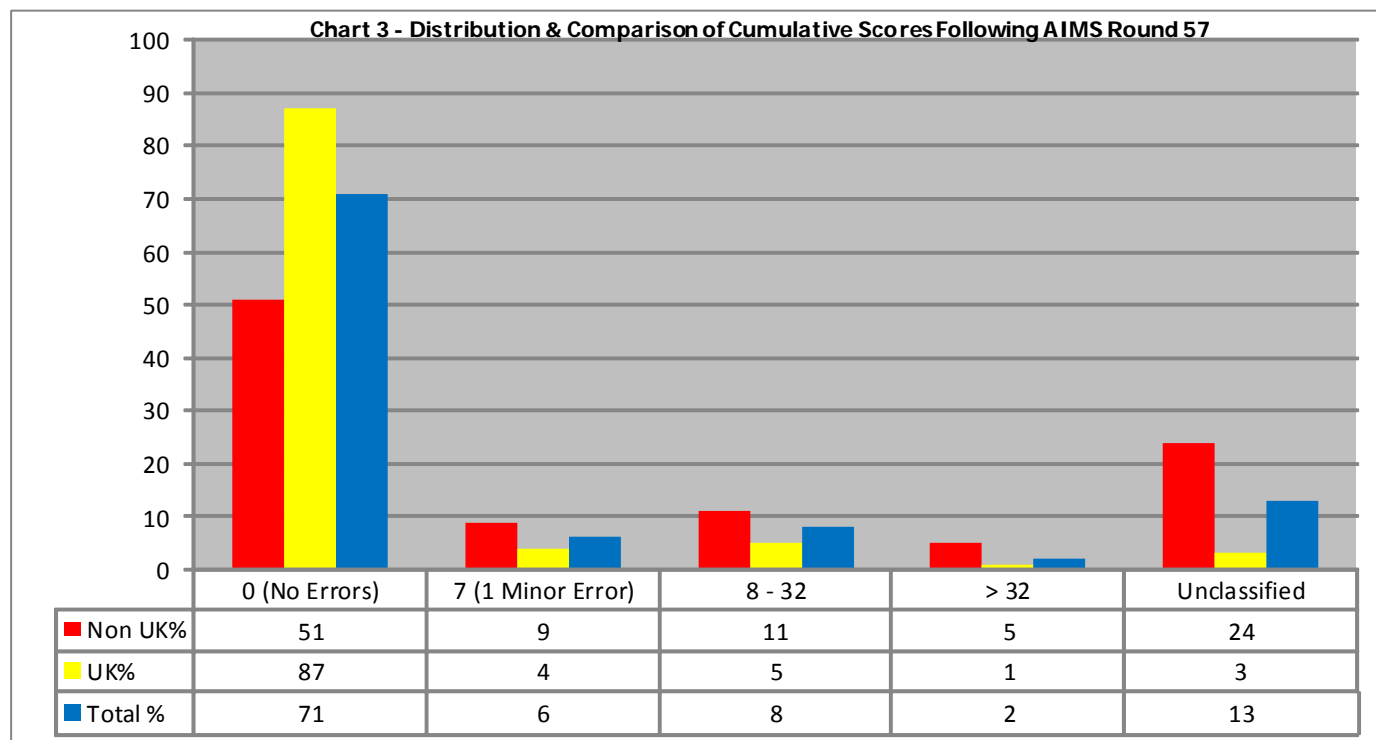
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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative three round scores for all UK and Non-UK laboratories.

42 laboratories (13%) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score.

Following this round, 257 laboratories (77%) obtained a good cumulative score (0 – 7 penalty points cumulatively). 26 laboratories (8%) obtained an acceptable cumulative score (8 – 32 penalty points cumulatively) and 8 laboratories (2%) obtained an unsatisfactory cumulative score (33 or more penalty points cumulatively).



### 3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

Subscription forms for 2016/17 will be issued within the next couple of weeks. Please ensure these are completed and returned to the Proficiency Testing Team at your earliest convenience to ensure continued participation in the scheme.

In December a questionnaire will be sent out via SurveyMonkey to gather feedback on all of our asbestos schemes. Your participation is greatly appreciated and we hope you find it a useful tool to feedback any suggestions/ improvements. Please remember that feedback can be sent to the PT Team at any time via email.

Following on from feedback gathered in December 2014, our software engineer is currently updating the PT Online Data Entry System to allow capture the methods used by participants when analysing AIMS samples. The data will be presented in the group report - we're hoping this will be available from R58.

A reminder that we have Replacement Rounds available to purchase. These are available to laboratories who have scored within the last round of AIMS and would like to replace it. Full details are available in our Information Book for Participants, or by emailing the Proficiency Testing Team on the email address below.

The next round of AIMS is due to be despatched week commencing 11th January 2015.

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