



Report
Round 52
March 2014



Asbestos In Material Scheme

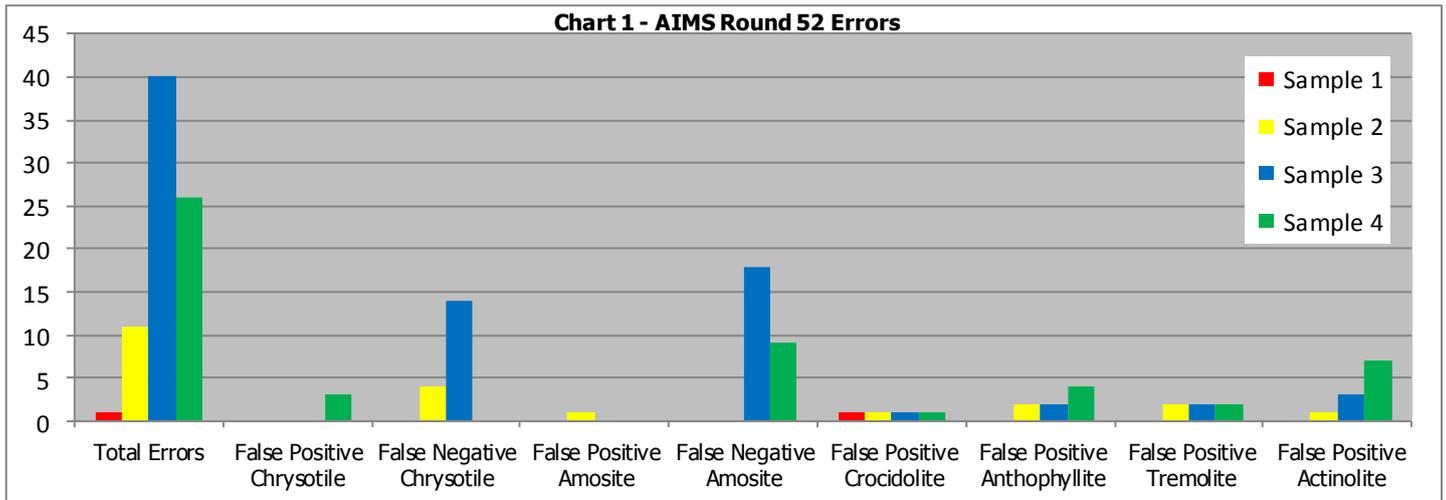
Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

Round 52 Sample Details

All samples were prepared for circulation following our normal validation process. The samples for this round of AIMS 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 eight independent analysts using PLM analytical techniques. All of the validation analysts 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 52 were obtained for Sample 3.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	217	Plaster - Manufactured	No Asbestos
2	211	Cement - Commercial	Chrysotile
3	220	Mortar - Manufactured	Amosite & Chrysotile
4	219	Board/Ceiling Tile - Commercial	Amosite & MMMF

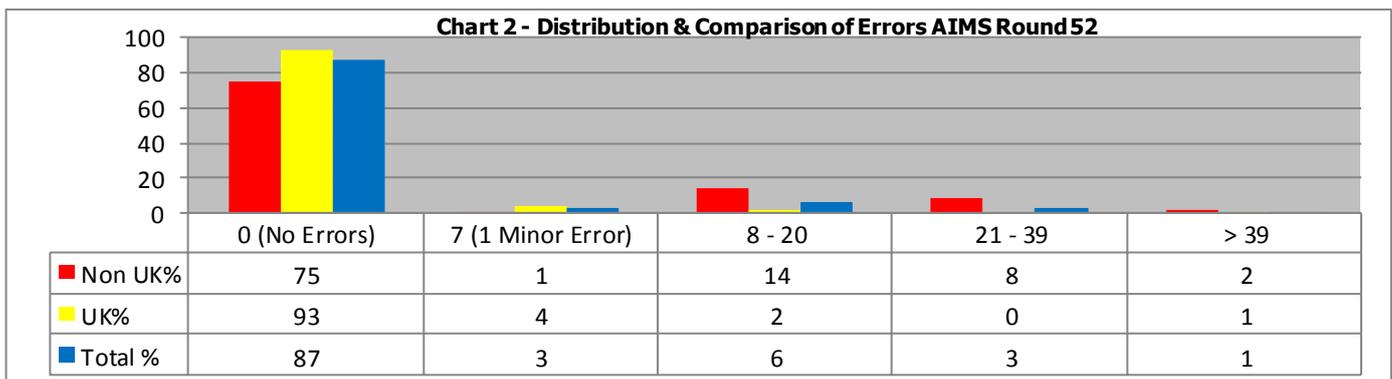
1. Type Of Errors Obtained



False Negative = Component has been missed. False Positive = Component has been incorrectly identified as present.

2. Round Scores

Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of scores for all participating laboratories. 256 (87%) 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; 179 (93%) UK laboratories and 77 (75%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





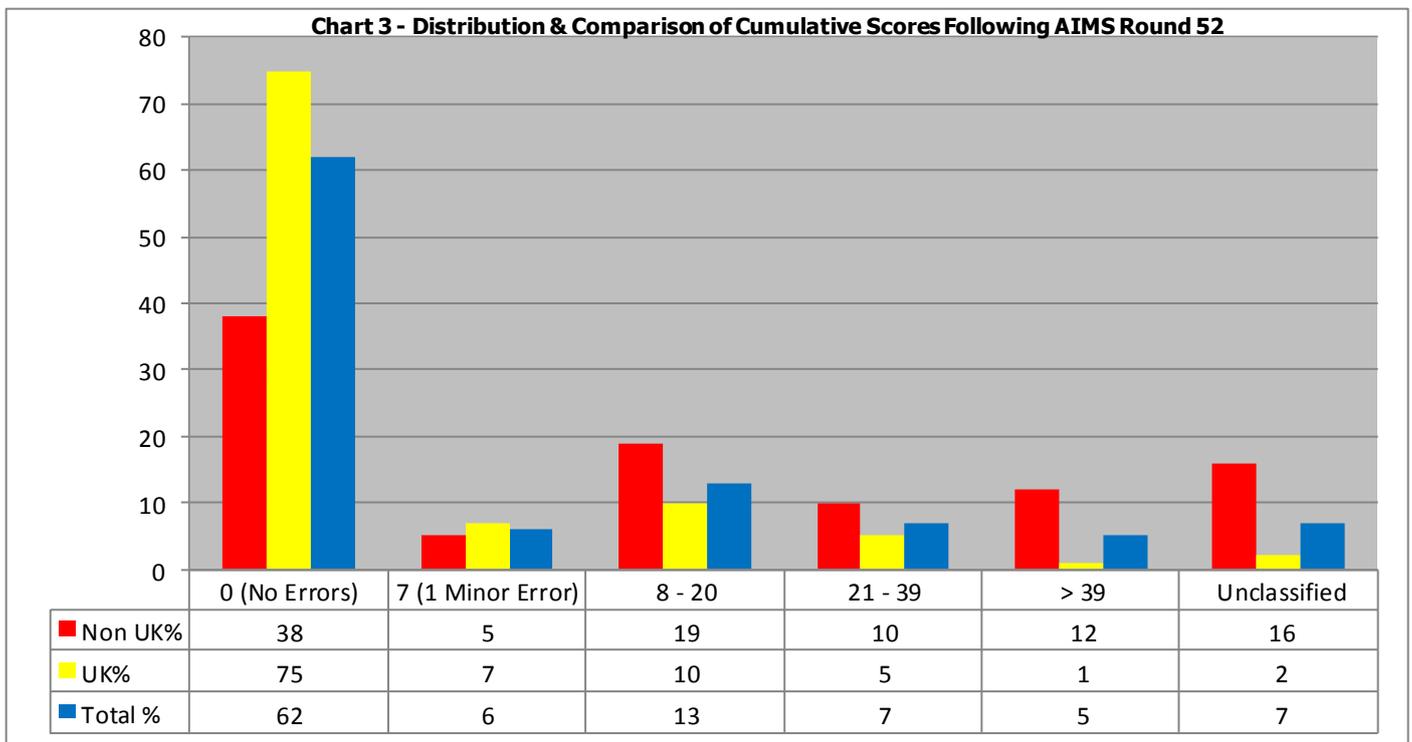
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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative three round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non-UK. 7% (21 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score. Following this round (52), 13 laboratories (5%) in total obtained an unsatisfactory score (ie more than 39 penalty points cumulatively) after participating in 3 rounds. Whilst the number of laboratories having an unsatisfactory score is relatively low there are currently 39 laboratories with scores between 8 – 20, and 20 laboratories with scores between 21 – 39.



3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

We are well under way with working towards our UKAS accreditation of the scheme, our pre-assessment is imminent! A number of changes to the administration of the scheme were highlighted in December 2013 when the subscription form for 2014/15 was issued. We believe the changes being made from round 53 onwards will benefit both participants and the overall running of the scheme.

One major change will be the advantage of a replacement round being offered as part of our Quality Control range of samples. The replacement round results can be used to replace one poor score in the last three rounds. These samples will be available from R53. Our 2014/15 QC order form will be available from 1st April 2014 with further information.

The HSL website is currently being updated, giving it a fresher look and easier navigation around the site – we’re hoping this will be available within the next couple of weeks. Our PT pages can be found at the bottom of the home page. Lots of useful information is available on our website, including schedules, handbooks and answers to frequently asked questions. Click on each scheme logo to view information relevant to that scheme.

Thank you to everyone who completed the feedback survey in December 2013. We had a massive response from participants across our schemes, providing a lot of constructive feedback. One of the main points raised was to be able to gain access to the AIMS individual reports quicker – we hope we have achieved that for this round! For 2014/15 we are planning on releasing results within 2 weeks of the result deadline date. A summary of the data collected from the survey is available on the PT home page of the HSL website, under the useful links heading.

As always please contact the PT team if you have any constructive feedback, problems or queries regarding the AIMS scheme (remember to quote your lab number):

Telephone: +44 (0)1298 218553 Email: proficiency.testing@hsl.qsi.gov.uk

For participants who haven't yet signed up for AIMS participation in 2014/15, you still have time to do so - the first round will be despatched on 5th May 2014.