



Report
Round 50
JULY 2013



Asbestos In Material Scheme

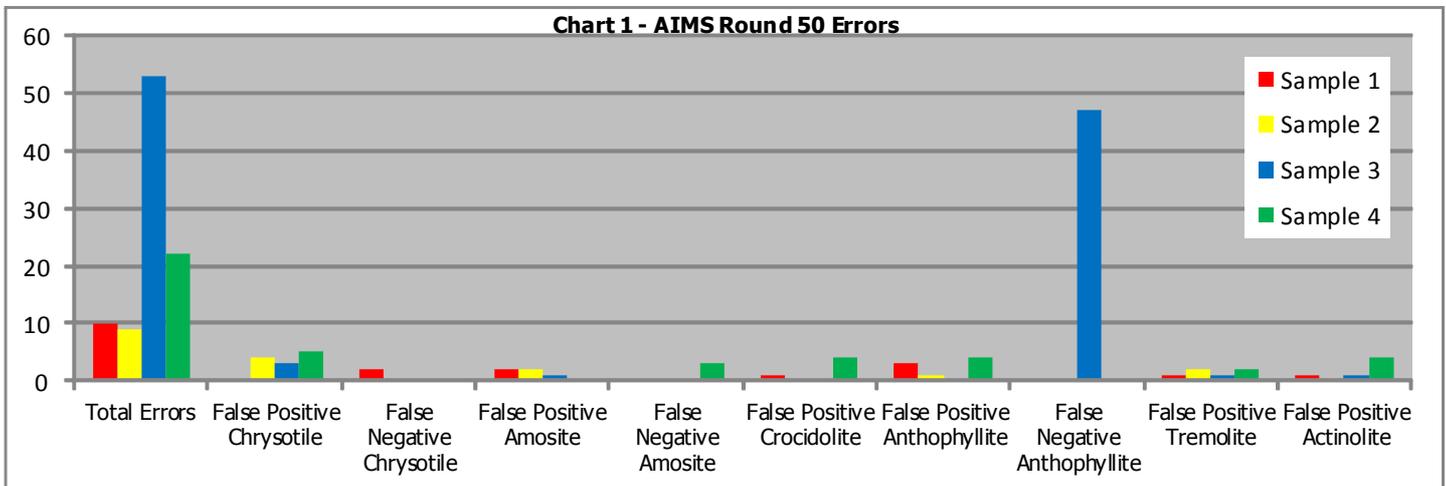
Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

Round 50 Sample Details

Round 50 of AIMS was completed on 7th June 2013. In total, 272 laboratories participated in the round and there were 191 (70%) UK laboratories and 81 (30%) Non-UK laboratories. 247 (91% of total AIMS participants) laboratories have participated in enough rounds (according to the scheme protocol) to obtain a cumulative score (3 round rolling score). All samples were prepared for circulation following our normal validation process and the round was judged to be of suitable standard for complexity. The samples were scanned using stereo-zoom microscopy to assess homogeneity & suitability for the round. 10% of all samples prepared for the round were analysed & validated by 8 independent analysts using PLM analytical techniques. All validating analysts identified all 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 for round 50 were obtained from Sample 3. Textured coating samples are notoriously difficult to analyse & following a request from technical advisors, the decision was made to include a sample of this type in a round of AIMS. A number of laboratories have had difficulties identifying the anthophyllite fibres present in this sample. The 2007 issue of Fibre Aspects gives some advice on acid pre-treatment of textured coating samples which may be of assistance for training & development purposes. Please see the AIMS page on the HSL website for the useful link.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	203	Concrete - Manufactured	Chrysotile
2	205	Cement - Manufactured	No Asbestos
3	210	Textured Coating Manufactured	Anthophyllite
4	213	Mixed Debris Manufactured	Amosite

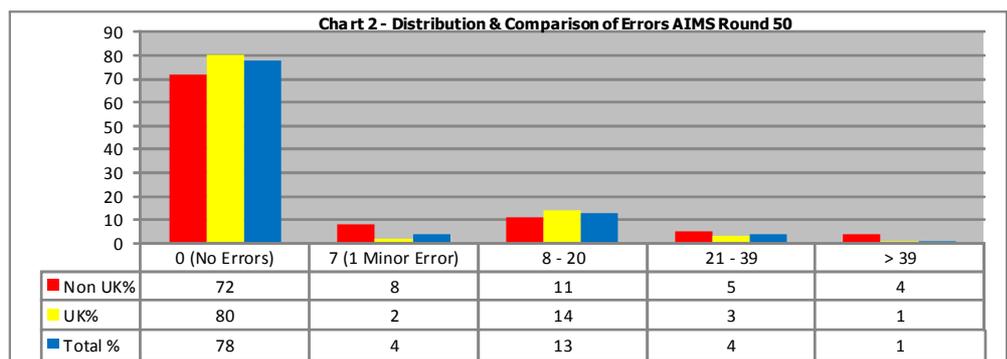
1. Type Of Errors Obtained



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. 212 (78%) of 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; 154 (80%) UK laboratories and 58 (72%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.



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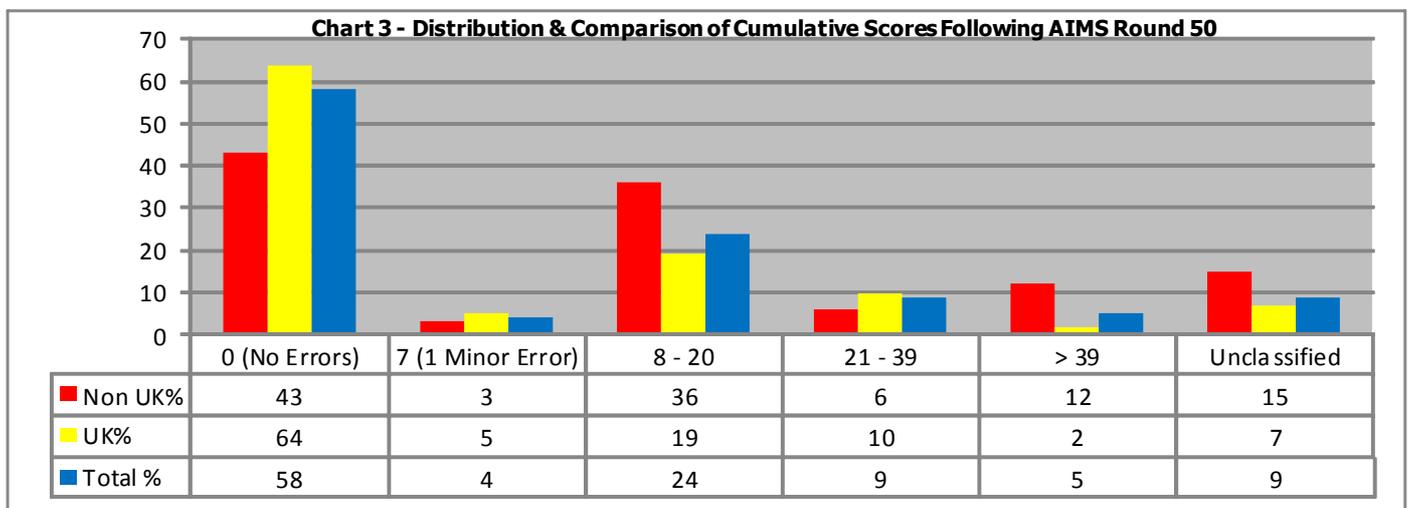
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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative 3 round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non-UK. 9% (25 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score; these laboratories are not represented in the chart. Following this round (50), 12 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 58 laboratories with scores between 8 – 20, and 22 laboratories with scores between 21 – 39.



3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

HSL are continuing to develop their Asbestos Proficiency Testing Schemes on-line systems. Participants may have noticed further changes following logon, the new format will allow access to other asbestos PT schemes when they become available. Thank-you to all participants for your on-going patience with our new system, we appreciate your cooperation.

Round 50 has been challenging for us in terms of data release, the biggest obstacle this round has been producing individual performance graphs on the individual reports following several requests for this information by participants. We hope to have resolved the issues & this is now visible on all individual reports. We hope you like it!

Several changes have been made to our website. The changes include: easier navigation around the site, clickable icons, frequently asked questions, link to our online data entry, addition of an update banner on the AIMS page (keep checking for current news). 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.gsi.gov.uk

Samples for the next round of the AIMS - Round 51, will be dispatched the week commencing the 2nd September 2013. The current AIMS handbook is available on the HSL website, which applies to AIMS rounds 50-52.



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