

Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

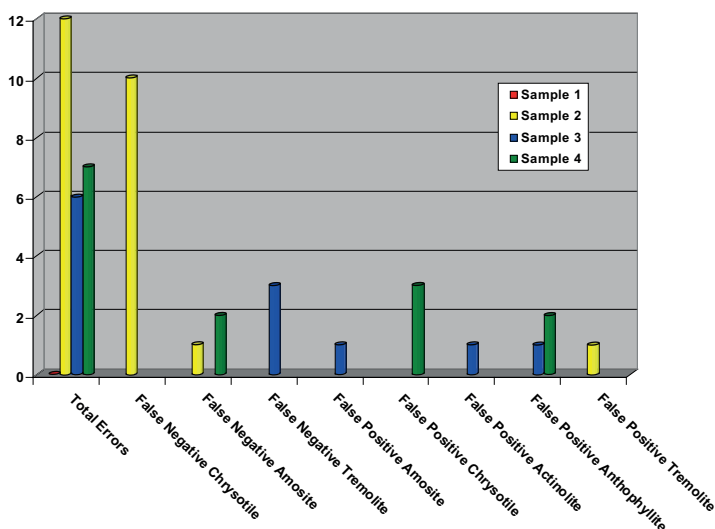
Round 46 of AIMS was completed on 17th February 2012. In total, 244 laboratories participated in the round and there were 176 (72%) UK laboratories and 68 (28%) Non-UK laboratories. 230 (94% of total AIMS participants) laboratories have participated in enough rounds (according to the scheme protocol) to obtain a cumulative score (3 month rolling score). Following the validation process, round 46 was judged to be of standard complexity and suitability, with a range of sample types including two of the four samples that were commercially manufactured and would be seen from time to time in routine analytical jobs.

Table 1: Round 46 Sample Details.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	194	Board	No Asbestos
2	191	Board	Amosite & Chrysotile
3	198	Mineral - Sepiolite	Tremolite
4	190	Plaster	Amosite & MMMF

1. Types of Errors Obtained

Chart 1: AIMS Round 46 Sample Errors



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. 225 (92%) 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; 171 (97%) UK laboratories and 54 (79%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.

Chart 2: Distribution & Comparison of Errors AIMS Round 46

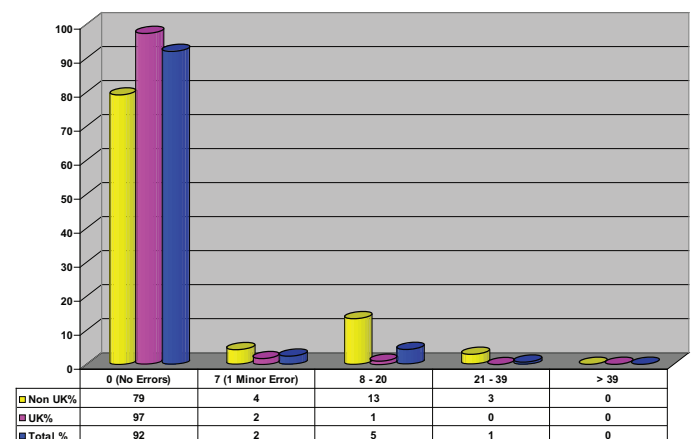


Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative 3 round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non-UK. 6% (14 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score; these laboratories are not represented in the chart. Following this round (46), 3 laboratories (1%) 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 24 laboratories with scores between 8 – 20, and 13 laboratories with scores between 21 – 39.



Report
Round 46

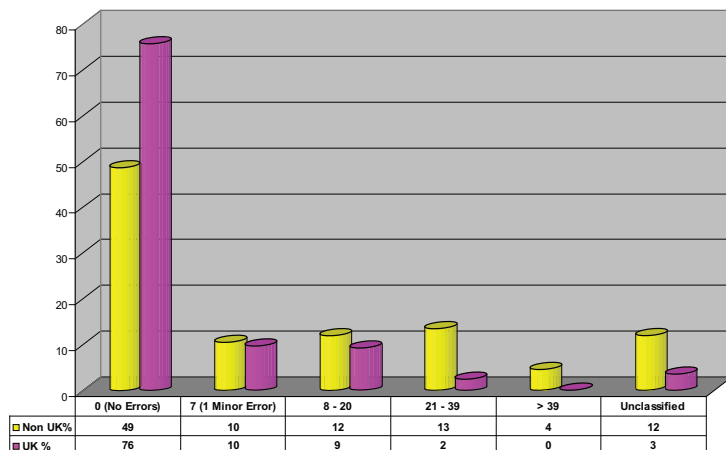
March 2012



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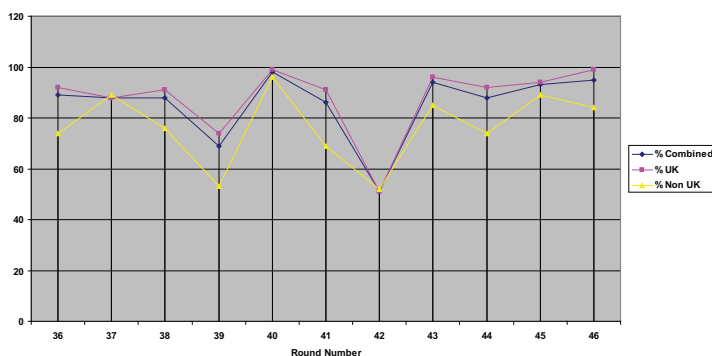
Chart 3: Distribution & Comparison of Cumulative Scores Following AIMS Round 46



3. Across Round Performance

Chart 4 shows the across round performance of UK, Non UK and combined total (both UK and Non-UK) laboratories in the AIMS scheme, from round 36 onwards. The percentages of laboratories obtaining no errors or one minor error are shown for each round.

Chart 4: Comparison of % Labs UK, Non UK & Combined with One Previous AIMS Rounds



4. For Your Information – AIMS NEWS!!

Samples for the next round of the AIMS - Round 47, will be despatched the week commencing the 23rd April 2012. A revised AIMS handbook is currently being issued to all participants along with order forms for the new financial subscription period 2012-2013, which applies to AIMS rounds 47-49.

HSL continue to develop the AIMS Proficiency Testing Scheme and following the success of the pilot run of the on-line data entry system are pleased to announce the launch of the next stage for all participants. A big thank-you to the participants who assisted us in launching and using the pilot systems for the first time, your help, support and valuable feedback is greatly appreciated. Round 47 will be the final stage in testing the system and we would like all participants to submit results data in both the usual manner (i.e. on a result form submitted by email/fax/hard copy) but also to try out and submit using the new online method. All AIMS participants will be issued with a unique user name and password to log onto the system and a users quick guide will be sent via email before the next round dispatch takes place. Please contact the PT team if you have any problems or queries regarding this at the email contact address: proficiency.testing@hsl.gov.uk

This latest AIMS development will enable us all to reduce our use of paper-based systems and also will give customers ownership and control of their data and the data submission process. In the very near future participants will have full ownership of data, they will be able to see their results data has been entered and will receive automatic confirmation emails. Individual round result reports will also be available electronically for participants to access whenever they wish, reducing costs with respect to re-issue of paper reports and the current administrative charges linked to them. The AIMS Team are hoping to fully launch the on-line data entry only, system of result submission for all participants from AIMS Round 48 onwards.

As Always Please Note: Failure to pay scheme fees will result in individual round reports being withheld and ultimately exclusion from scheme participation.

If you have any queries regarding AIMS, please contact the AIMS Proficiency Testing Team:

T: +44 (0) 1298 218553 or by email
E: proficiency.testing@hsl.gov.uk



Round 46 March 2012