

Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

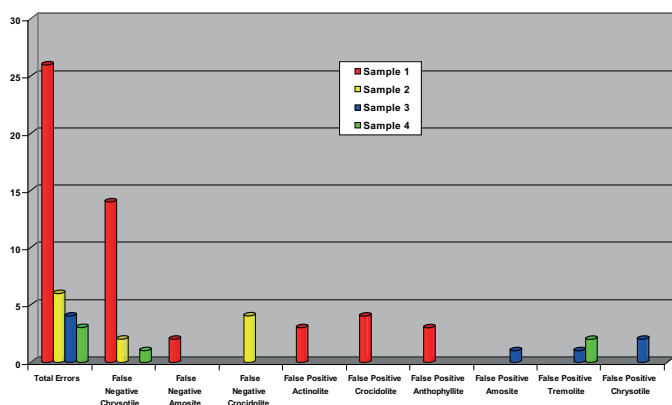
Round 45 of AIMS was completed on 21st October 2011. In total, 243 laboratories participated in the round and there were 173 (71%) UK laboratories and 70 (29%) Non-UK laboratories. 228 (94% of total AIMS participants) laboratories have participated in enough rounds (according to the scheme protocol) to obtain a cumulative score (3 month rolling score). Following the validation process, Round 45 was judged to be of standard complexity and suitability, with a range of sample types including three of the four samples that were commercially manufactured and would be seen from time to time in routine analytical jobs.

Table 1: Round 45 Sample Details.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	183	Lagging - Commercial	Amosite & Chrysotile
2	185	Fibre Board - Commercial	Glass Fibre, Chrysotile & Crocidolite
3	188	Cement - Manufactured	No Asbestos
4	193	Fire Blanket - Commercial	Chrysotile

1. Type Of Errors Obtained

Chart 1: AIMS Round 45 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. 216 (89%) 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; 159 (92%) UK laboratories and 57 (81%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.

Chart 2: Distribution & Comparison of Errors Round 45

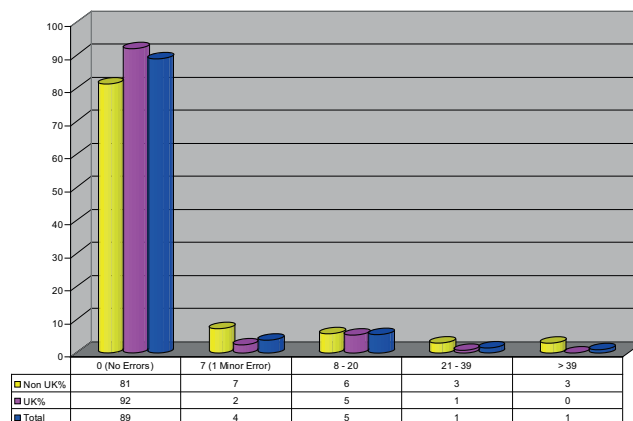


Chart 3 shows the distribution of cumulative 3 round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non-UK. 7% (15 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score; these laboratories are not represented in the chart. Following this round (45), 3 laboratories (1%) in 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 32 laboratories with scores between 8 – 20, and 12 laboratories with scores between 21 – 39.



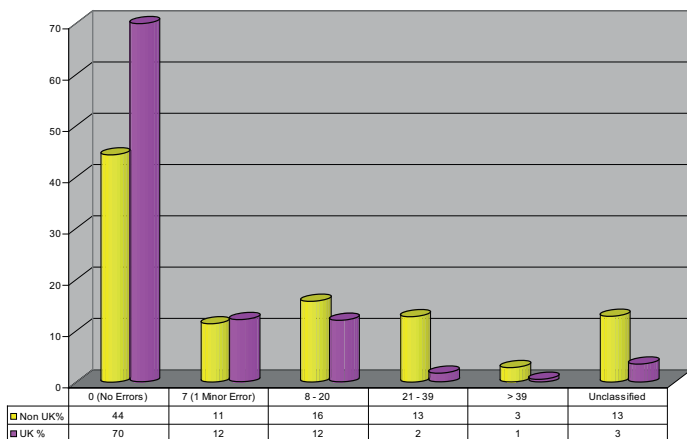
**Report
Round 45
November 2011**



Asbestos In Material Scheme

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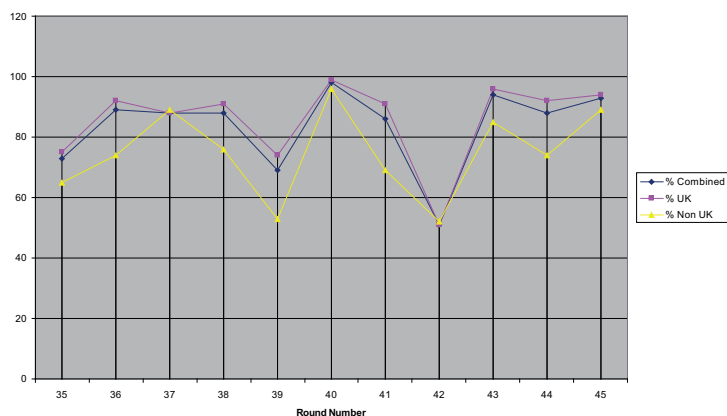
Chart 3: Distribution & Comparison of Cumulative Scores Following AIMS Round 45



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 35 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

Samples for the next round of the AIMS - Round 46, will be despatched the week commencing the 16th January 2012. This is of course weather dependant and may be subject to change if we encounter heavy snowfall here in Buxton!!!!

HSL are continually developing the Proficiency Testing Schemes with a view to giving improved services and robust systems to our customers. The latest AIMS development is On-Line Data Entry, whereby we hope to be able to reduce our use of paper-based systems and also give customers ownership and control of their data and the data submission process. We will be running a pilot of the new data entry system alongside our current email/paper based data submission method for AIMS Round 46. We would like to thank our volunteer test group who have agreed to pilot the new data processing system. The AIMS Team are hoping to launch the on-line data entry system for all participants in AIMS Round 47 in the New Year 2012.

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:

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