



GROUP REPORT
Round 23



March 2021

ASBESTOS IN SOILS SCHEME

Round 23 Sample Details

BACKGROUND

This report covers Round 23 of the Asbestos in Soils Scheme (AISS). Round 23 was open to laboratories worldwide. Laboratory participation was as follows: 29 UK, 34 Rest of Europe and 6 Rest of the World.

SAMPLES

Two samples were circulated as follows:

Sample S045 – This sample contained amosite and chrysotile in a matrix of top soil, cat litter, sand, straw, and angel hair (plastic) fibre.

Sample S046 – This sample contained no asbestos but contained wollastonite fibre in a matrix consisting of topsoil, cement and seed heads.

SCREENING & VALIDATOR INFORMATION

Both samples were prepared for circulation following our normal internal screening process of samples with representative sub-samples scanned using stereo-zoom microscopy to assess homogeneity and suitability. Approximately 10% of the total number of samples were validated by 4 independent laboratories.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY LABORATORIES

Sixty-six laboratories submitted results for AISS Round 23. Laboratories used the PT online data entry system to submit their results for this round. Results were submitted as asbestos type(s) present and for the Quantitative option with no asbestos present then only the qualitative score has been calculated.

AISS QUALITATIVE RESULTS

Sample 1 (S045)

Fifty-five laboratories correctly reported amosite and chrysotile
One laboratory reported amosite, chrysotile and crocidolite
One laboratory reported amosite and crocidolite
Five laboratories reported amosite only
Three laboratories reported chrysotile only
One laboratory reported no asbestos

Sample 2 (S046)

Sixty-one laboratories correctly reported no asbestos
Two laboratories reported amosite
One laboratory reported chrysotile and crocidolite
One laboratory reported tremolite
One laboratory reported actinolite

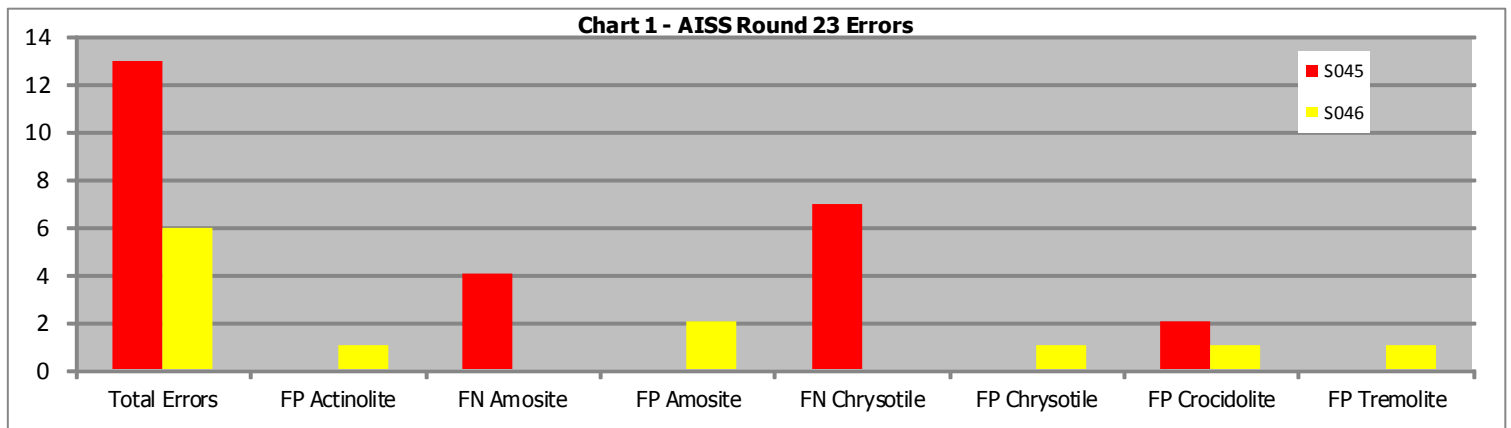
AISS QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

As this is a non-asbestos sample, any data entered for the quantitative result has been removed from the report data.

The qualitative/quantitative sample (S046) was included as a non-asbestos sample for the first time as it was felt this would provide a thorough test of observational and analytical skills for analysts in a sample that had previously always contained asbestos.

1. Type Of Errors Obtained

Chart 1 illustrates the errors made by participating laboratories. Thirteen errors were made on sample S045 (amosite and chrysotile); one laboratory identified amosite, chrysotile and crocidolite, one identified amosite and crocidolite, five identified amosite only, three identified chrysotile only and one missed both amosite and chrysotile and reported no asbestos. Six errors were made on sample S046 (no asbestos) with two laboratories identifying amosite, one identifying chrysotile and crocidolite, one identifying tremolite and one identifying actinolite.



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

2. Errors for UK & Non-UK Laboratories

Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of scores for all participating laboratories. 51 (77%) laboratories obtained a score of zero in this round. The errors were mainly due to laboratories identifying only one of the two asbestos types in S045. The distribution of scores obtained by UK (United Kingdom) and Non-UK laboratories is also compared; 25 (89%) UK laboratories and 26 (68%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.

