

## Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

Round 44 of AIMS was completed on 17th June 2011. In total, 234 laboratories participated in the round, in which 186 (79% of total participants) obtained no errors. Following validation Round 44 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 44 Sample Details

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	184	Cement	Crocidolite & Chrysotile
2	186	Mortar	No Asbestos
3	187	Lagging	Amosite
4	189	Cement	Chrysotile & Anthophyllite

### Sample 1

This was a commercially produced sample containing crocidolite and chrysotile asbestos fibres

### Sample 2

This was a manufactured sample material containing no asbestos fibres.

### Sample 3

This sample was a commercially produced lagging material containing amosite fibres.

### Sample 4

This sample was a manufactured sample material containing chrysotile and anthophyllite fibres.

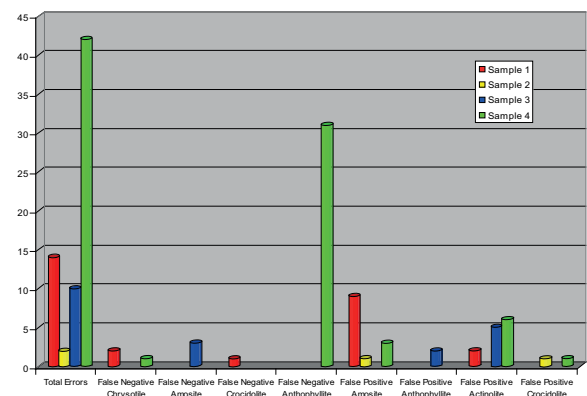
## 1. Validation of Sample Preparation Process

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 a team of experienced analysts (some from the HSL, some from overseas labs, some from UK labs and some expert independent analysts) using various microscopy techniques. All of the validation analysts identified all of the asbestos components present in the samples.

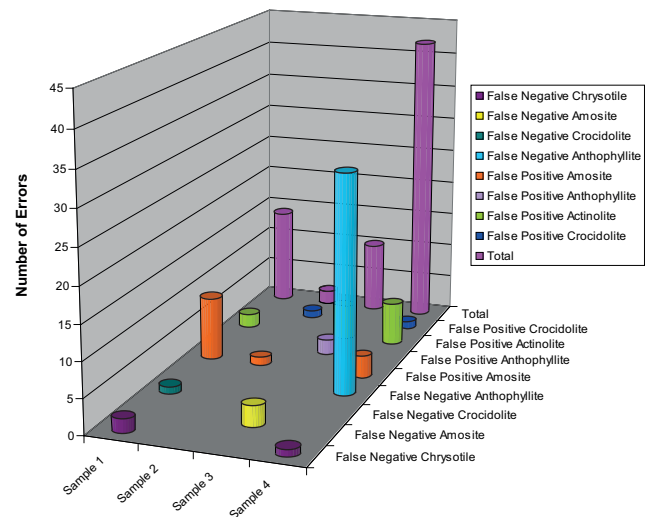
## 2. Participation

234 laboratories participated in Round 44 and of these, 172 (74%) were UK laboratories and 62 (26%) were Non UK laboratories. 215 (92% of total) laboratories have participated in enough rounds (according to the scheme protocol) to obtain a cumulative score.

AIMS Round 44 Errors



Distribution of Errors in AIMS Round 44



False Negative = Component has been missed.

False Positive = Component has been incorrectly identified as present.

## 4. Round Scores

Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of scores for all participating laboratories. 79% (186) of laboratories obtained a score of zero in this round, indicating that these laboratories had not made any errors.



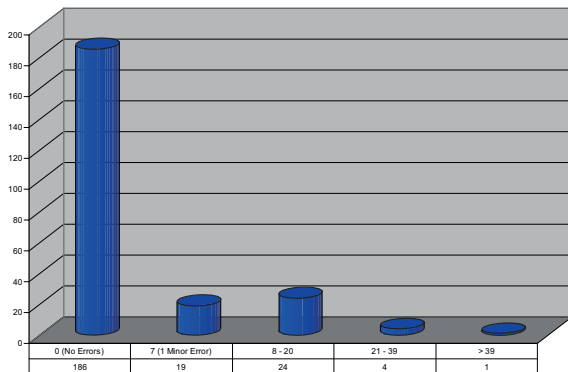
Report  
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Asbestos In Material Scheme

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Chart 2: Distribution of Scores AIMS Round 44



The distribution of scores obtained by UK (United Kingdom) and Non UK laboratories is compared in Chart 3; 86% (148) of UK laboratories and 61% (38) of Non UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.

Chart 3: Distribution and Comparison of Errors in AIMS Round 44

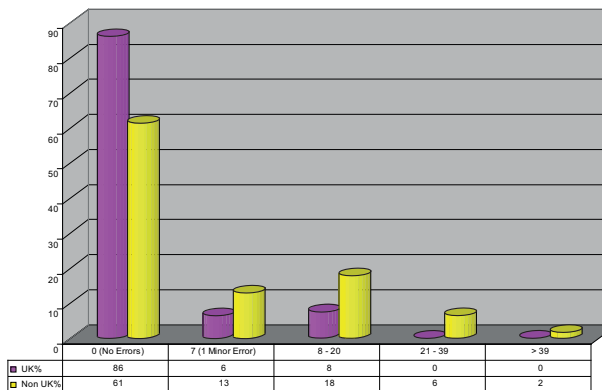
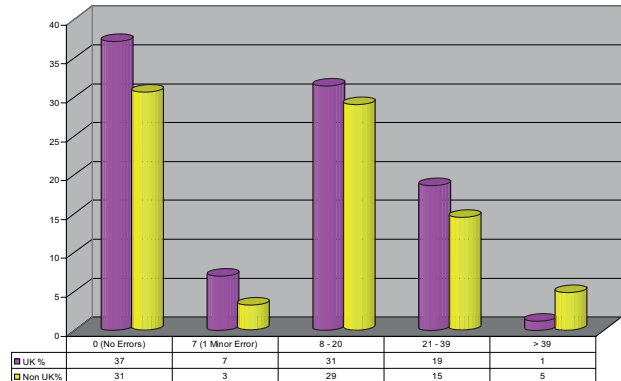


Chart 4 shows the distribution of cumulative 3 round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non UK. 9% (19 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score; these laboratories are not represented in the chart. Following Round 43 from the grouped data, 5 laboratories (2%) in total obtained an unsatisfactory score (ie more than 39 penalty points cumulatively) after participating in 3 rounds.

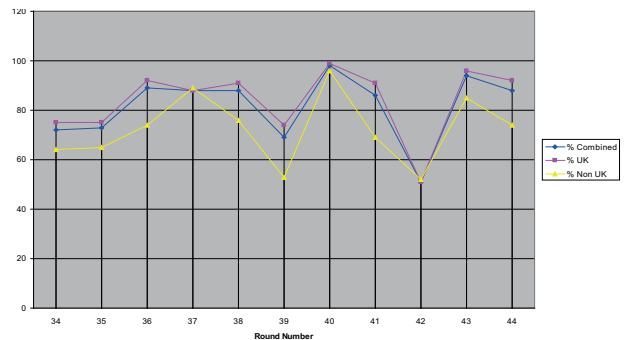
Chart 4: Distribution and Comparison of Cumulative Scores following AIMS Round 44



## 5. Across Round Performance

Chart 5 shows the across round performance of UK, Non UK and combined total (both UK and non UK) laboratories in the AIMS scheme, from round 34 onwards. The percentage of laboratories who obtained no errors or one minor error are shown for each round.

Chart 5: Comparison of % Labs; UK, Non UK & Combined, with One Minor or No Errors in Previous AIMS Rounds



## 6. For Your Information

Samples for the next round of the AIMS - Round 45, will be despatched the week commencing the 19th September 2011.

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 45. We therefore require a volunteer test group to pilot the new data processing system and are looking for **30 UK Volunteer Participant Laboratories**. Please contact the PT team by email (using "Pilot Volunteer" in the email subject line) if you would like to volunteer and assist us in developing this new service.

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

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

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



Round 44 July 2011