



Group Report



Round 21
June 2024

LOW ASBESTOS CONTENT SCHEME

Round 21 Sample Details

BACKGROUND

This report covers Round 21 of the Low Asbestos Content Scheme (LACS). LACS is currently a qualitative only PT scheme.

Round 21 was open to laboratories worldwide. Laboratory participation was as follows: 4 UK and 107 Europe & 11 Rest of World. 121 laboratories subscribed to this round - all submitted results.

SAMPLES

One sample was circulated as follows: Sample LACS021 – This sample was wollastonite containing UICC anthophyllite. The sample was made as a batch using wollastonite and 0.05% UICC anthophyllite by mass of the whole batch sample.

SCREENING & VALIDATOR INFORMATION

The sample was prepared for circulation following our normal internal screening process of samples with representative sub-samples scanned using stereo-zoom and polarised light microscopy and transmission electron microscopy to assess homogeneity and suitability. More than 10% of the total number of samples despatched were validated by 11 independent laboratories.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY LABORATORIES

Laboratories used the PT Online Data Entry System to submit their results for this round. Results were submitted as asbestos type(s) present.

LACS RESULTS

Sample LACS021

Of the 121 laboratories submitting results for R21:

One hundred and eight laboratories correctly reported anthophyllite (105) or tremolite (3)

Two laboratories reported actinolite

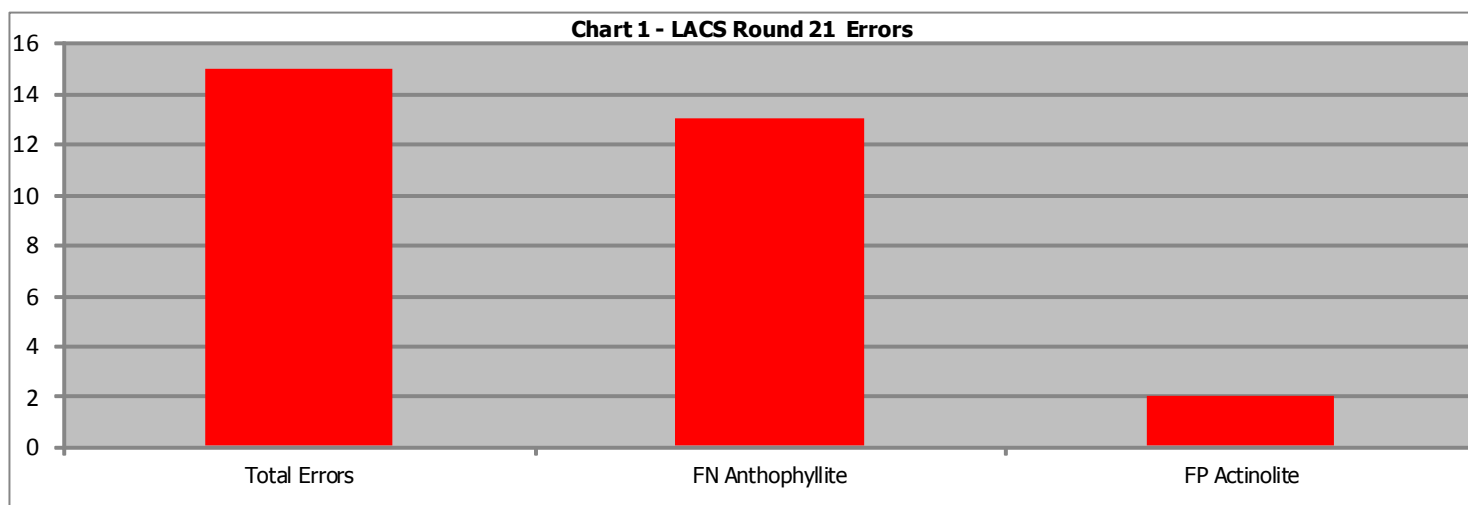
Eleven laboratories reported no asbestos

These results are presented graphically in Charts 1 and 2.



1. Type Of Errors Obtained

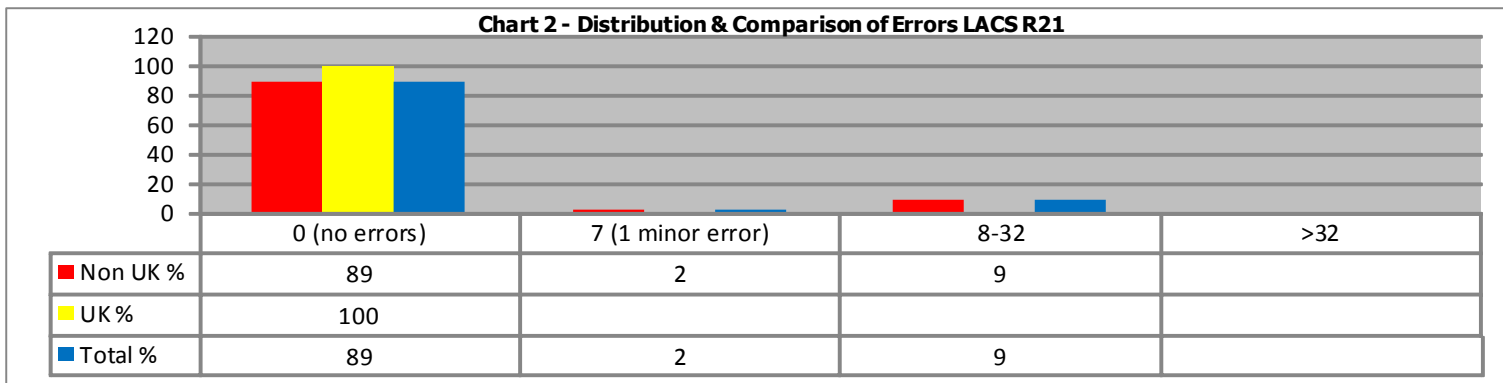
Chart 1 illustrates the errors made by participating laboratories. Fifteen errors were made by laboratories on sample LACS021. Two reported actinolite (2 x FP actinolite & 2 x FN anthophyllite) and eleven reported no asbestos (11 x FN anthophyllite).



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. 108 (89%) 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; 4 (100%) UK laboratories and 104 (89%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





Quantitative Results

For 2024/25, HSE are not providing quantitative samples for the Low Asbestos Content Scheme (LACS).

Additional Information

Four PLM/PCM labs scored zero points in the round; 31 SEM labs scored zero and all 75 TEM labs scored zero. Two SEM labs scored 7 points and 2 each of PLM/PCM and SEM labs scored 20 points.

