



Group Report



Round 22
October 2024

LOW ASBESTOS CONTENT SCHEME

Round 22 Sample Details

BACKGROUND

This report covers Round 22 of the Low Asbestos Content Scheme (LACS). LACS is currently a qualitative only PT scheme.

Round 22 was open to laboratories worldwide. Laboratory participation was as follows: 4 UK and 121 Rest of Europe. 126 laboratories subscribed to this round - one didn't submit results.

SAMPLES

One sample was circulated as follows: Sample LACS022 – This sample was cement containing UICC crocidolite. The sample was made as a batch using cement and 0.02% UICC crocidolite 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 LACS022

Of the 125 laboratories submitting results for R22:

One hundred and twenty laboratories correctly reported crocidolite.

One laboratory reported chrysotile.

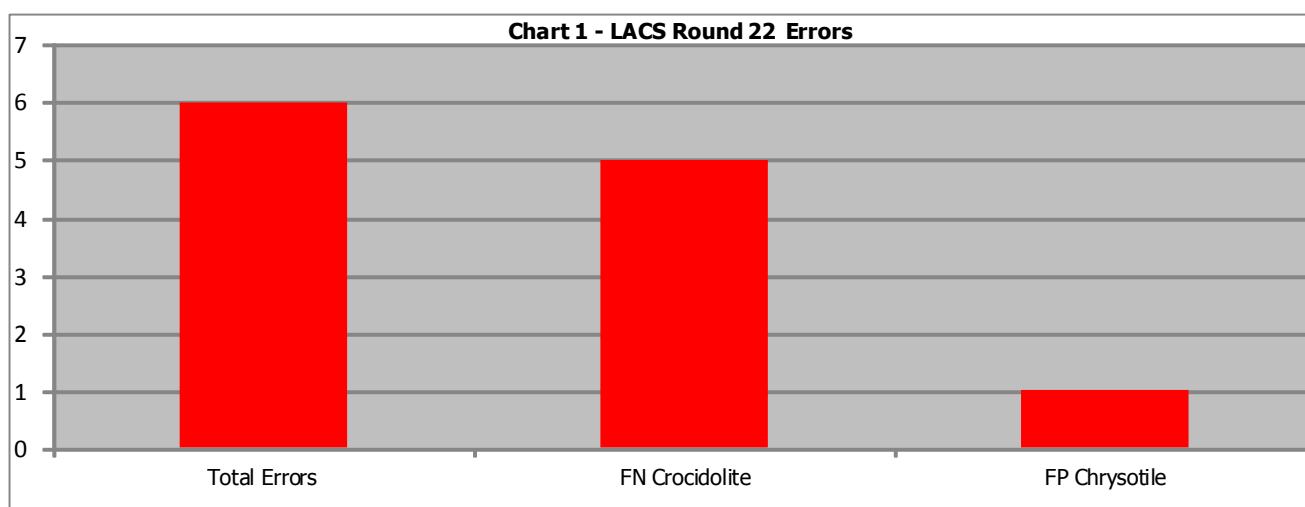
Four laboratories reported no asbestos.

These results are presented graphically in Charts 1 and 2.



1. Type Of Errors Obtained

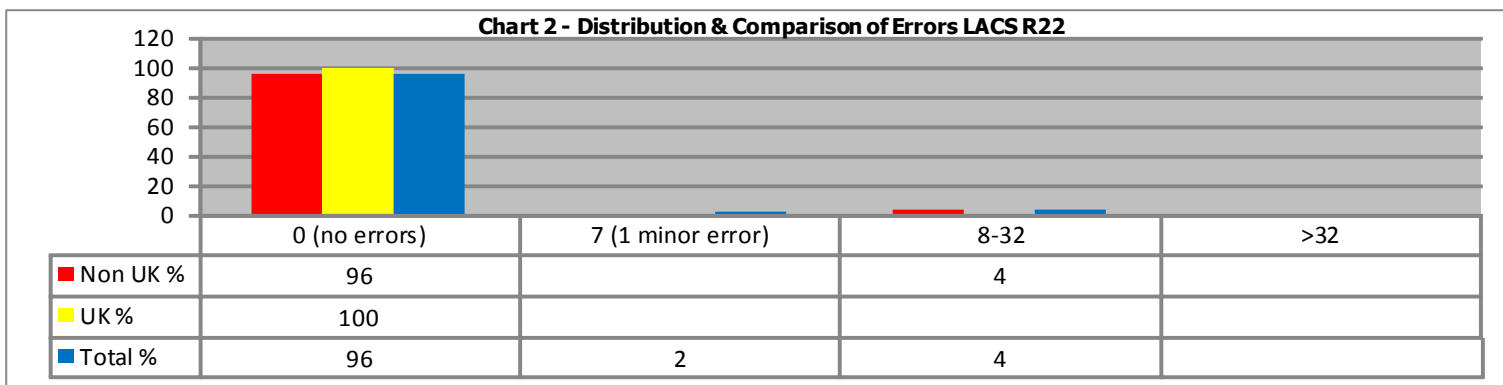
Chart 1 illustrates the errors made by participating laboratories. Six errors were made by laboratories on sample LACS022. One reported chrysotile (1 x FP chrysotile & 1 x FN crocidolite) and four reported no asbestos (4 x FN crocidolite).



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. 120 (96%) 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 116 (96%) 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

All eight PLM/PCM, all forty-three SEM and sixty-nine TEM laboratories scored zero points in the round. One TEM laboratories scored 12 points and four TEM laboratories scored twenty points.

