



Group Report
Round 74
November 2021



Asbestos In Materials Scheme

Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

This report is available to view on our website: <https://www.hsl.gov.uk/proficiency-testing-schemes/group-reports>

Round 74 Sample Details

368 labs were assigned to Round 74 with 363 laboratories submitting complete results. All samples were prepared for circulation following our normal internal screening process and were scanned using stereozoom microscopy to assess homogeneity and suitability. Approximately 10% of all samples prepared were validated by 20 independent laboratories using either PLM or SEM analytical techniques.

The round consisted of two commercial samples and two manufactured samples of materials that may contain asbestos and would typically be submitted for analysis at an asbestos testing laboratory. Sample 1 was a manufactured mixed debris sample containing 0.1% crocidolite asbestos; Sample 2 was a coarse chalk powder sample containing 0.1% amosite asbestos; Sample 3 was a commercially produced non-asbestos ceiling board sample containing organic fibres and Sample 4 was a commercial chrysotile asbestos string sample painted black.

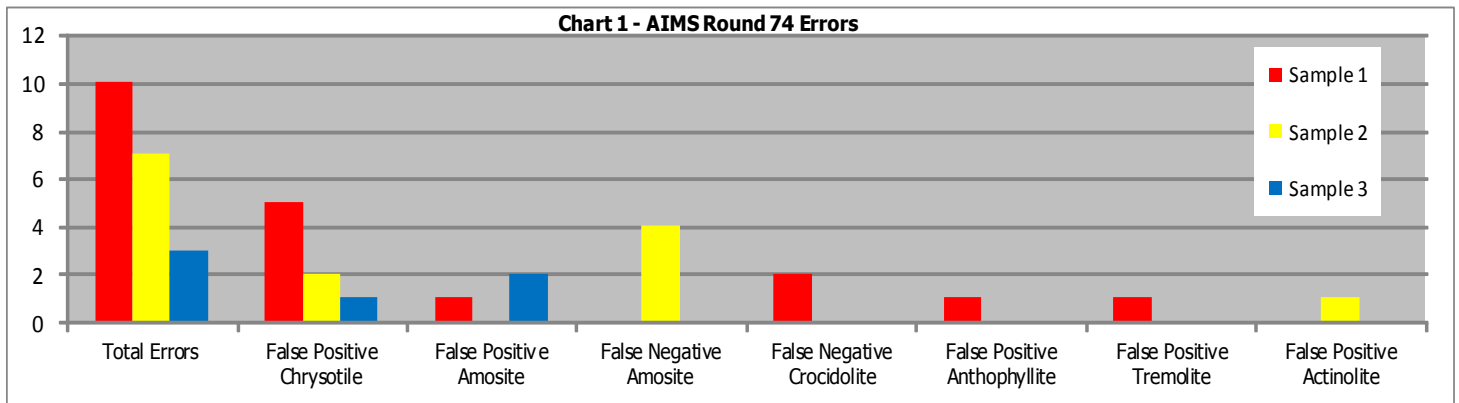
There were few errors on the reported results on all four samples in this round of AIMS. Sample 1 produced the most errors and as a mixed debris sample contained, along with the crocidolite, a number of different types of non-asbestos fibres. Analysts should carefully pick through this type of sample at the initial stage to consider all the different types of fibres present for further identification.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component	Asbestos Present (%)
1	315	Mixed Debris (Manufactured)	Crocidolite	0.1%
2	316	Coarse Powder (Manufactured)	Amosite	0.1%
3	317	Board (Commercial)	No asbestos	N/A
4	318	String (Commercial)	Chrysotile	Unknown



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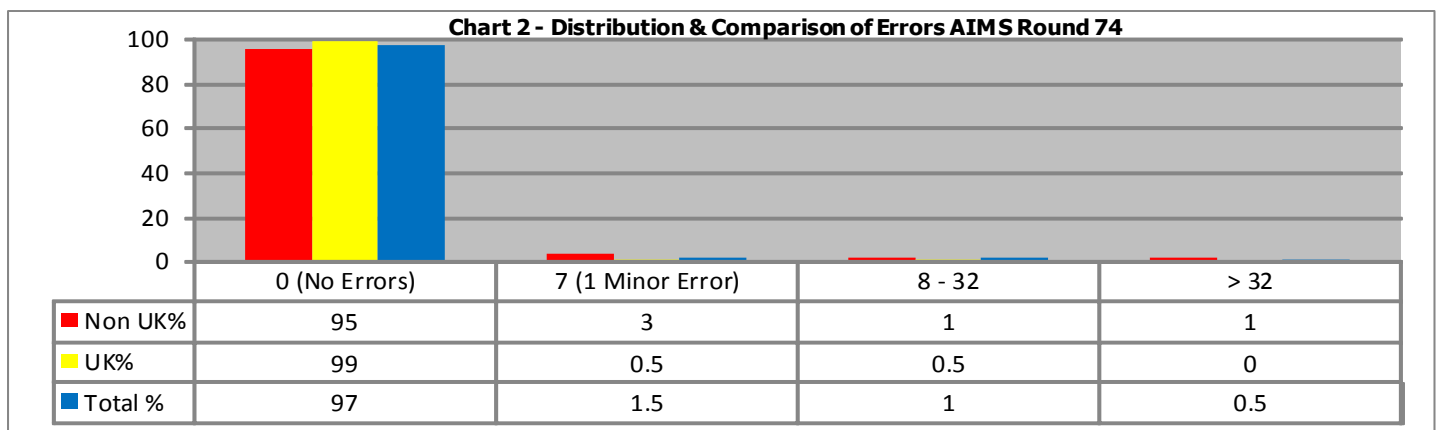
1. Type Of Errors Obtained



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. 351 (95%) 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; 167 (99%) UK laboratories and 184 (95%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative three round scores for all UK and Non-UK laboratories. 14 laboratories (4%) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score. Following this round, 322 laboratories (87%) obtained a good cumulative score (0 – 7 penalty points cumulatively). 25 laboratories (7%) obtained an acceptable cumulative score (8 – 32 penalty points cumulatively) and 7 laboratories (2%) obtained an unsatisfactory cumulative score (33 or more penalty points cumulatively).

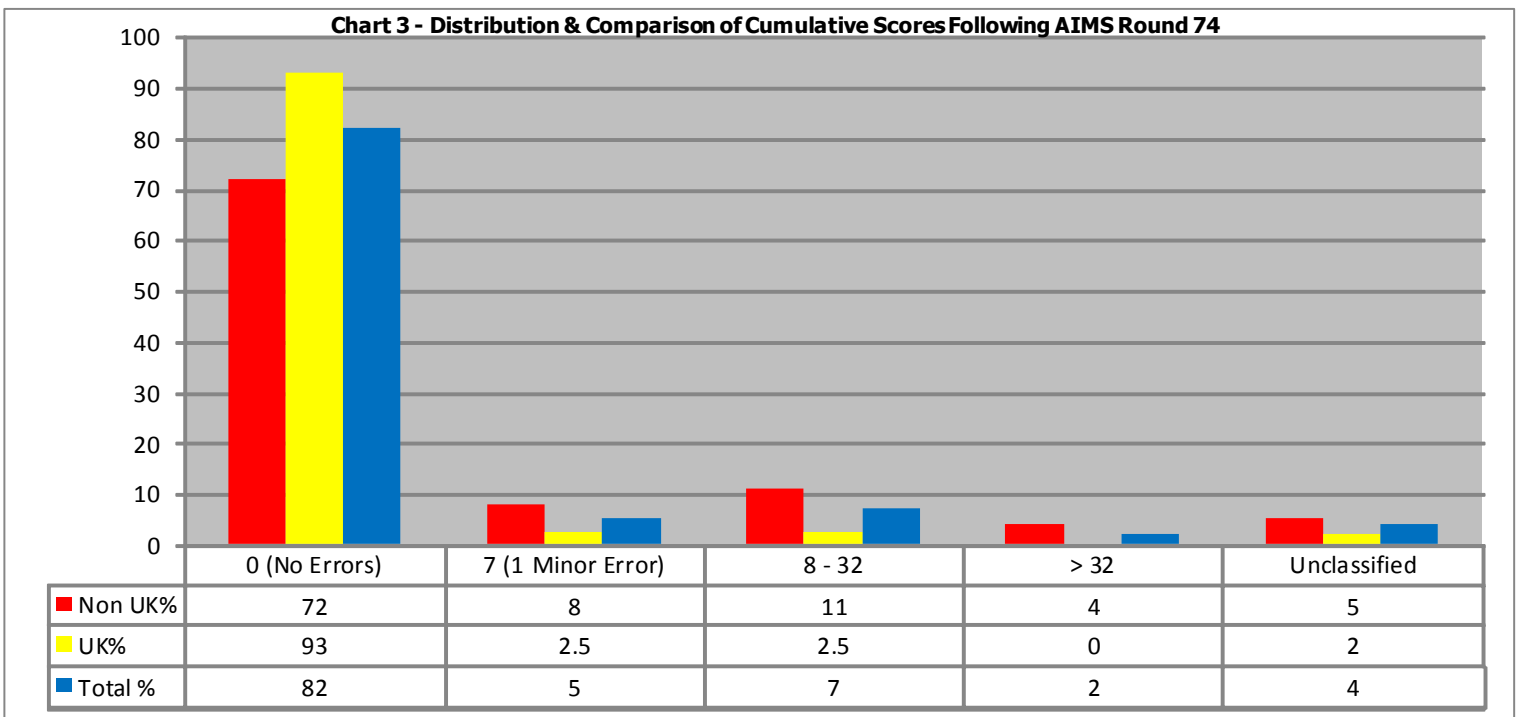
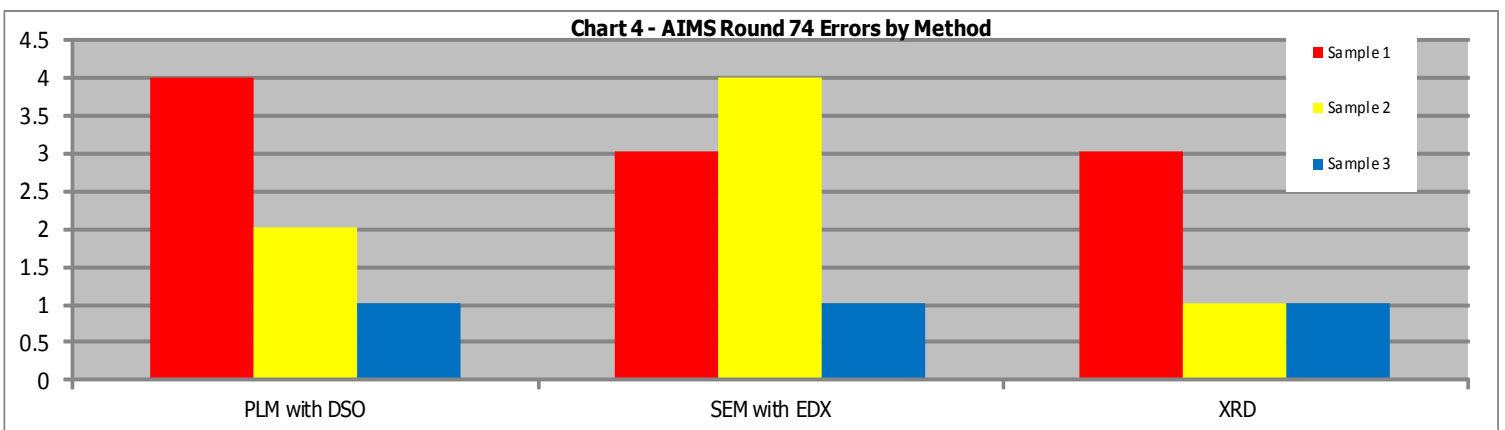


Chart 4 shows the number of errors made on each sample for all UK and Non-UK laboratories.

PLM - polarised light microscopy. DSO - dispersion staining objective, SEM - scanning electron microscopy. EDX - energy dispersive X-ray. XRD - X-ray diffraction.





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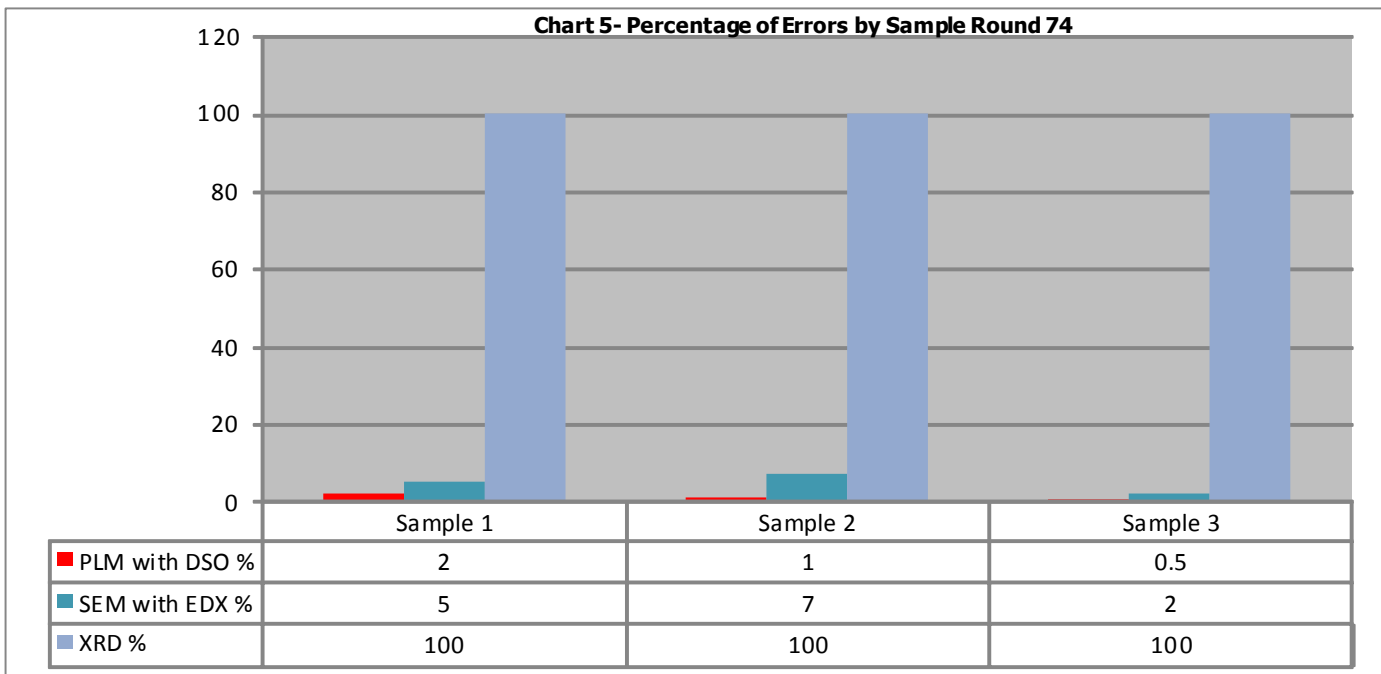
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Chart 5 shows the percentage of sample errors by method.

Of the 363 participating labs in R74 the method used in terms of the number of labs was as follows : FTIR, 2 labs; PLM with DSO, 199 labs; PLM with PCM, 26 labs; SEM with EDX, 57 labs; TEM with EDX, 31 labs; PLM with DSO & TEM with EDX, 29 labs; PLM with PCM & FTIR, 1 lab; PLM with PCM & SEM with EDX, 7 labs; PLM with PCM & TEM with EDX, 8 labs; XRD, 1 lab and Other, 2 labs.

(Please note: some labs use different methods for different samples within the round.)

Chart 5- Percentage of Errors by Sample Round 74



3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

The next round of AIMS will be despatched week commencing 3rd January 2022. Samples will not be despatched until full payment has been received. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date and inform us straight away if anything needs amending prior to despatch.

Our courier company has advised that overseas laboratories **must** provide their EORI (Economic Operators Registration & Identification) and VAT number to assist customs processing their packages in a timely manner. If you haven't provided this information to us already, please email the PT Team with the details - including your PT Lab number.

If you require a sample to be investigated by HSE following completion of a round, please remember to advise the PT Team within 10 working days of your report being issued so we can let you know the process for returning it to us.

Following R73 one sample was returned to HSE for investigation. The outcome was that the participant's score would be overturned and the participant's report was re-issued with the revised score.

A reminder that we are still mainly working from home, so if you need to contact us please send an email and we will respond as soon as we can.

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