



Report
Round 55
March 2015



Asbestos In Material Scheme

Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

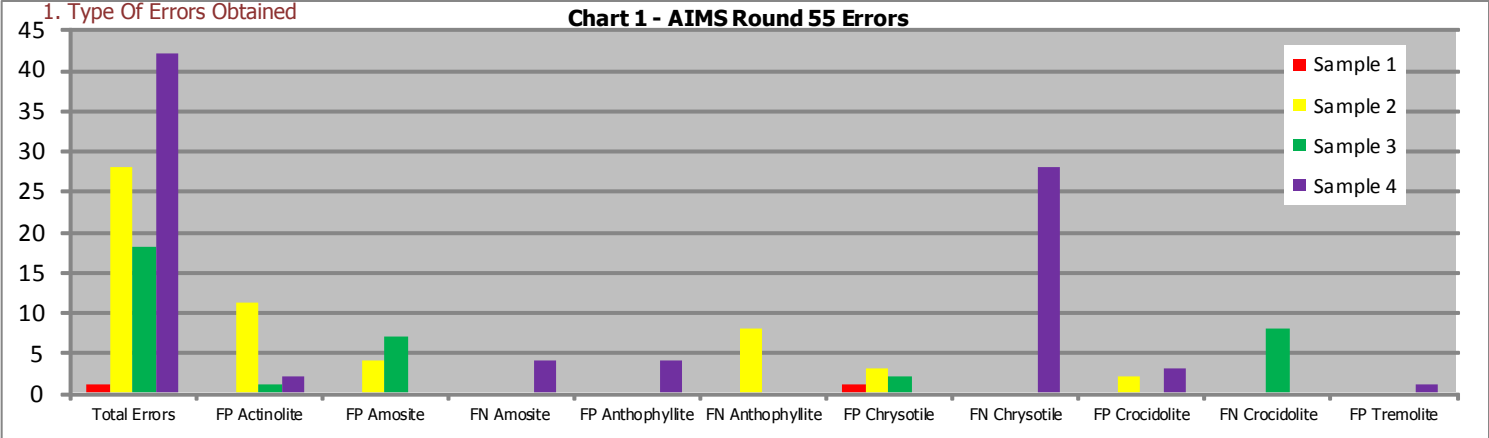
Round 55 Sample Details

All samples were prepared for circulation following our normal validation process. The samples were screened to assess homogeneity and suitability for the round and 10% of all samples prepared for the round were analysed and validated by 12 independent laboratories using PLM analytical techniques. All of the validation laboratories identified all of the asbestos components present within the samples. No additional asbestos components were found in any of the 10% of samples that were validated. The majority of errors from round 55 were obtained for Sample 4, a number of laboratories failed to identify chrysotile. In AIB containing amosite and chrysotile, chrysotile is often present in much smaller quantities, therefore requires a more detailed analysis of the sample to find and then extract it. The hydrophilic nature of chrysotile also means it binds well with the matrix making it harder to extract, compared to the hydrophobic amosite. To ensure the chrysotile was extracted and identified, a thorough search and/ or breaking up of the sample was required.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	240	Ceiling Tile (Commercial)	No Asbestos
2	244	Mortar (Manufactured)	Anthophyllite
3	245	Plaster (Manufactured)	Crocidolite
4	237	Board (Commercial)	Amosite & Chrysotile

1. Type Of Errors Obtained

Chart 1 - AIMS Round 55 Errors

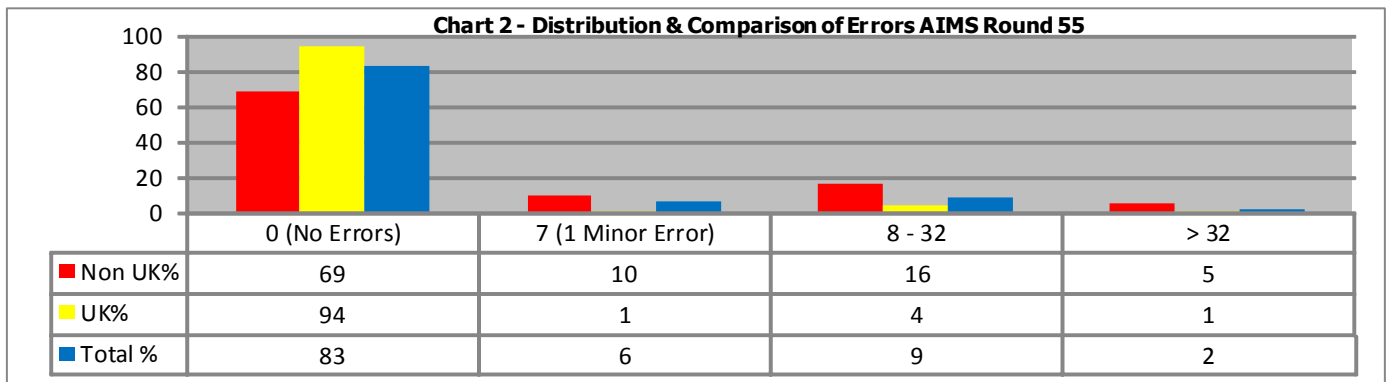


FN (False Negative) = Component has been missed. FP (False Positive) = Component has been incorrectly identified as present.

2. Round Scores

Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of scores for all participating laboratories. 261 (84%) 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; 174 (94%) UK laboratories and 87 (69%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.

Chart 2 - Distribution & Comparison of Errors AIMS Round 55





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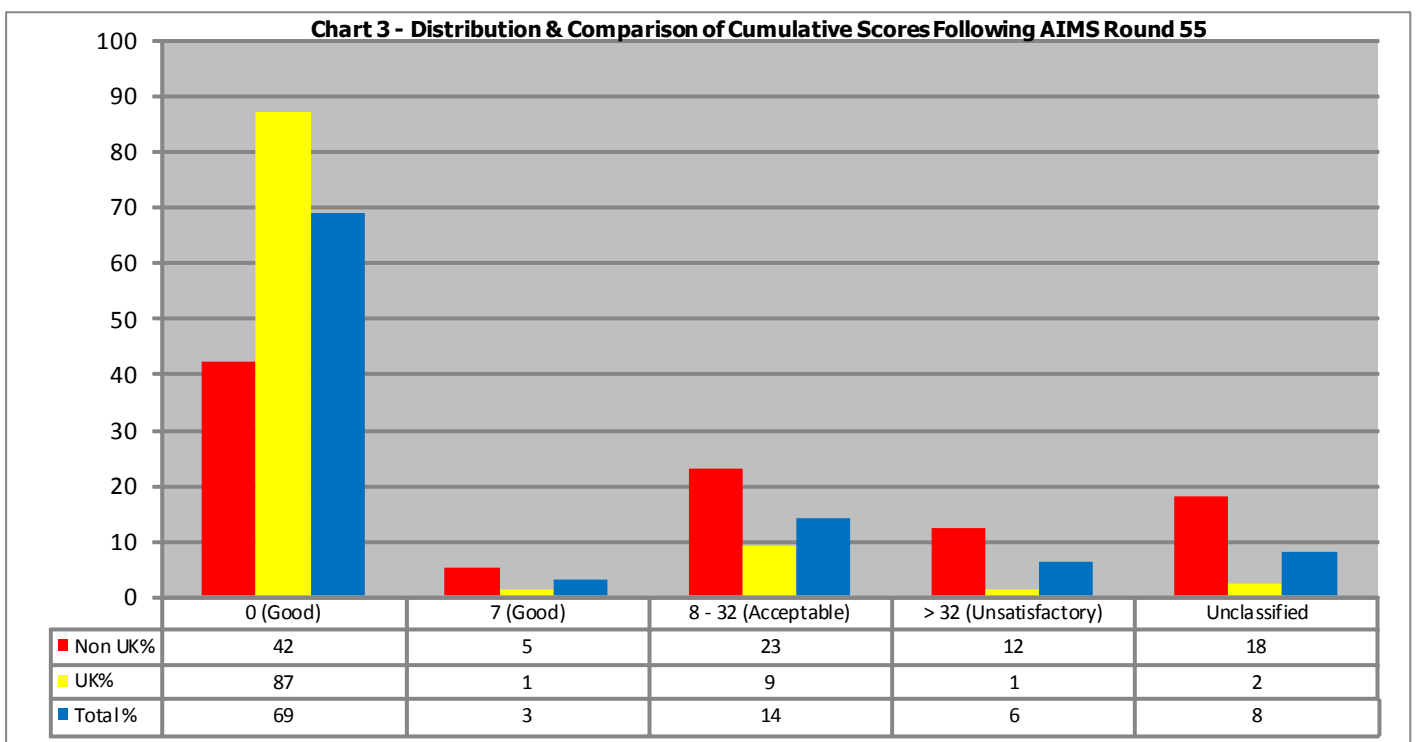
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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative three round scores for all UK and Non-UK laboratories.

27 laboratories (8%) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score.

Following this round, 225 laboratories (72%) obtained a good cumulative score (0 – 7 penalty points cumulatively), 46 laboratories (14%) obtained an acceptable cumulative score (8 – 32 penalty points cumulatively) and 18 laboratories (6%) obtained an unsatisfactory cumulative score (33 or more penalty points cumulatively).



3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

We'd like to take this opportunity to let you know that AIMS is now accredited to ISO17043! We have been working towards this for over a year, implementing changes and improvements to ensure the scheme is run in accordance with the standard. We will continue to develop the scheme to ensure participants are provided with the best possible service. If you do have any questions or suggestions, please remember that you can contact the PT team at anytime.

AIMS QC materials are available at a discounted rate up until 31st March 2015 - to request an order form, please contact the PT team.

A reminder that replacement rounds are also available to purchase. The results deadline date for the AIMS R55 replacement round is Monday 24th April 2015. If you would like to replace round 55, please contact us for an order form.

Survey Monkey—Thank you to all participants who provided feedback in the most recent survey. A summary is now available on the HSL website PT pages. A number of suggestions were made regarding the content of the group report, we are hoping to review and implement improvements during the upcoming rounds.

The next round of AIMS is due to be despatched week commencing 4th May 2015. If you haven't returned your completed subscription form for 2015-16, please ensure this is done as soon as possible to guarantee participation in the next round.

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5254