



**Report**  
**Round 51**  
**November 2013**



Asbestos In Material Scheme

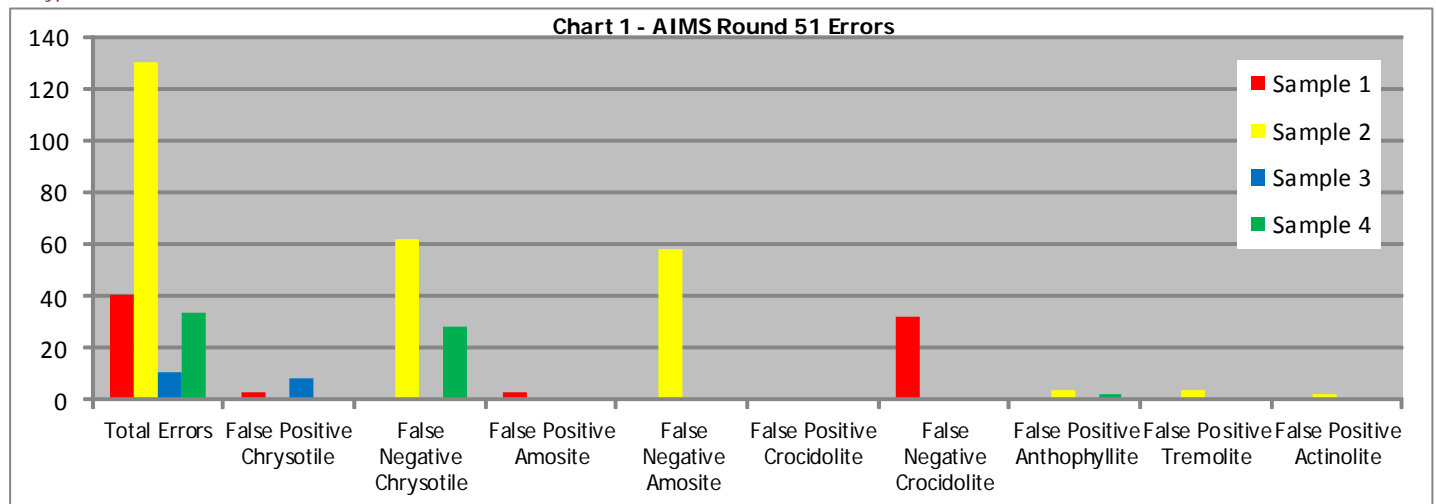
# Asbestos In Materials (AIMS) Scheme

## Round 51 Sample Details

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 eight independent analysts using PLM analytical techniques. All of the validation analysts identified all of the asbestos components present in the samples. No additional asbestos components were found in any of the 10% of samples that were validated. The majority of errors for round 51 were obtained from Sample 2, this sample highlighted the importance to search beneath 'layers of materials' for asbestos fibres.

Sample	Validation Number	Product Type	Target Component
1	216	Cement - Manufactured	Crocidolite
2	212	Board - Manufactured	Chrysotile & Amosite
3	215	Insulation - Commercial	No Asbestos
4	214	String - Commercial	Chrysotile

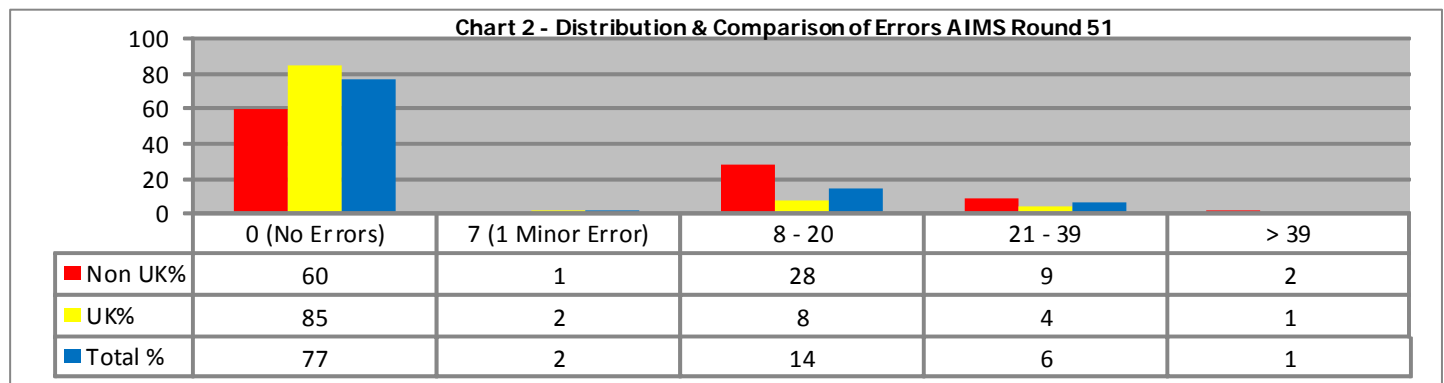
## 1. Type Of Errors Obtained



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. 221 (77%) 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; 164 (85%) UK laboratories and 57 (60%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





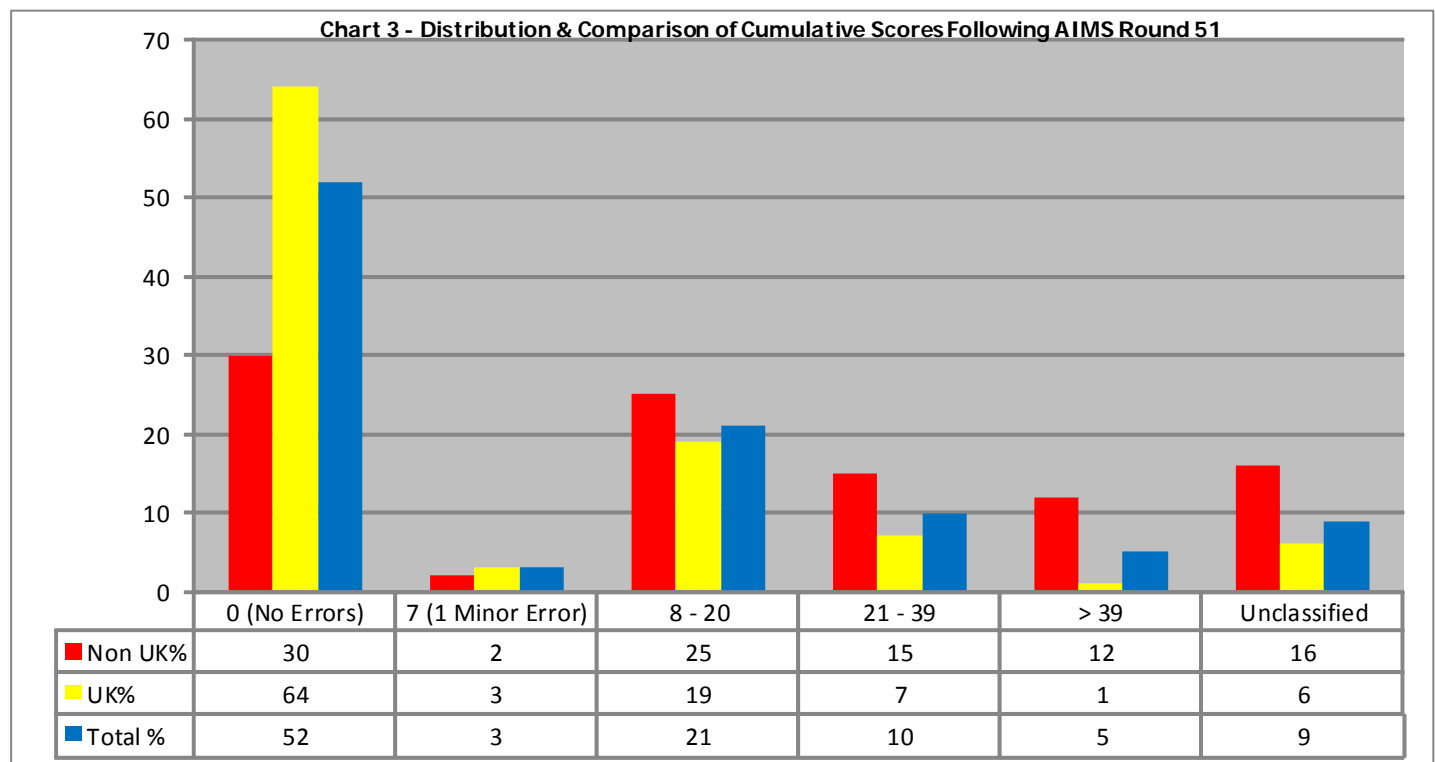
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Chart 3 shows the percentage distribution of cumulative three round scores for all laboratories, UK and Non-UK. 9% (27 laboratories) in total had not yet completed 3 rounds and therefore did not accumulate a score; these laboratories are not represented in the chart. Following this round (51), 13 laboratories (5%) in total obtained an unsatisfactory score (ie more than 39 penalty points cumulatively) after participating in 3 rounds. Whilst the number of laboratories having an unsatisfactory score is relatively low there are currently 61 laboratories with scores between 8 – 20, and 28 laboratories with scores between 21 – 39.



### 3. For Your Information - AIMS NEWS !!

HSL are continuing to develop their Asbestos Proficiency Testing Schemes with the latest update being the start of the process for us to gain UKAS accreditation of the scheme. We will shortly be sending out a survey where we would really appreciate feedback from you regarding our PT schemes which will help us develop our services. The addition of the SEM scheme to the new web based format is now complete along with our other Pilot Asbestos In Soils Scheme also being transferred to the web system. The RICE scheme development is now underway and will be trialled in the near future in 2014. Participants may have noticed the additional schemes on screen following their logon and will be able to access these (if they participate), as soon as they become available. Thank-you to all participants for your on-going patience with our new systems, we appreciate your cooperation.

Several changes have been made to our website. The changes include: easier navigation around the site, clickable icons, frequently asked questions, link to our online data entry, addition of an update banner on the AIMS page (keep checking for current news). As always please contact the PT team if you have any constructive feedback, problems or queries regarding the AIMS scheme (remember to quote your lab number):

Telephone: +44 (0)1298 218553      Email: [proficiency.testing@hsl.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:proficiency.testing@hsl.gsi.gov.uk)

Samples for the next round of the AIMS - Round 52, will be dispatched the week commencing the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The current AIMS handbook is available on the HSL website, which applies to AIMS rounds 50-52.