

## Description of the RICE Scheme

Participation in an independent proficiency-testing scheme plays an essential part of a laboratory's quality control system and is mandatory for a laboratory accredited to the ISO 17025 standard. RICE is an asbestos fibre counting proficiency-testing scheme run by HSE Science Division. A steering group, the Fibre Proficiency Testing Steering Committee (FPTSC), oversees the technical operation and development of RICE and the Asbestos In Materials Scheme (AIMS).

The RICE scheme provides a measure of the laboratory's performance in relation to other fibre counting laboratories. The recommended analytical method for this scheme is the World Health Organisation (WHO) counting rules using phase contrast microscopy.

Laboratories that are not accredited to ISO 17025 by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) undertaking fibre counting are required by the Irish Health and Safety Authority (HSA) to maintain an acceptable performance in the RICE scheme.

## Significance and interpretation of the Indicators of Participant Counting

A laboratory will receive one of four classifications – Category 1, Category 2, Category 3 or Awaiting Classification – for each period covered by four consecutive rounds.

**Category 1** is Good

**Category 2** is Acceptable (but needs improvement)

**Category 3** is Unsatisfactory and Awaiting Classification is assigned when fewer than four rounds have been completed.

This 4 round classification is the primary assessment measure because it reflects the performance of a laboratory over a period of time; this reduces the influence of slide-related variations. The aim of every laboratory should be to achieve and maintain a Category 1 performance in RICE.

This report lists those laboratories that have achieved either Category 1 or Category 2 status. Laboratories are listed in alphabetical order.

**Please note that laboratories “Awaiting Classification” and Category 3 laboratories are not included in this list.**

### ***Category 1 (Good)***

#### **Asbestos Safe**

66 Hollystown Park, Hollystown, Dublin, D15 N8X0 Republic of Ireland

#### **ASTC Ltd**

Hollytree House, Mullinabro Woods, Waterford, X91PK7Y Republic of Ireland

#### **Celtic Asbestos Consultancy Ltd**

Unit 60, Grange Way, Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Baldoyle, Dublin, D13 F8F5 Republic of Ireland

#### **Higgins Consultancy Ardahan Ltd**

Caherkelly, Ardahan, Galway, H91 H2F3 Republic of Ireland

#### **McCusker Environmental Ltd**

6 Arbutus Grove, Quin, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95E6C3 Republic of Ireland

#### **MDK Analytical Ltd**

Carrigtwohill Business Centre, Carrigtwohill, Cork, Cork, T45H213 Republic of Ireland

#### **OHSS Ltd**

5C Fingal Bay Business Park, Harry Reynold's Road, Balbriggan Co., Dublin, K32 XT04 Republic of Ireland

### ***Category 2 (Acceptable but needs improvement)***

#### **About Safety Ltd**

24 Ocean Crest, Abbeylands, Arklow, Co Wicklow, Y14W658 Republic of Ireland

#### **Phoenix Environmental Safety Ltd**

Graigueswood, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, R95 KW60 Republic of Ireland