



Group Report



Round 19
October 2023

LOW ASBESTOS CONTENT SCHEME

Round 19 Sample Details

BACKGROUND

This report covers Round 19 of the Low Asbestos Content Scheme (LACS). LACS is currently a qualitative only PT scheme.

Round 19 was open to laboratories worldwide. Laboratory participation was as follows: 4 UK and 122 Rest of Europe. 126 laboratories subscribed to this round with 125 submitting results.

SAMPLES

One sample was circulated as follows: Sample LACS019 – This sample was diatomaceous earth containing UICC amosite.

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 LACS019

Of the 125 laboratories submitting results for R19:

One hundred and twenty one laboratories correctly reported amosite

Two laboratories reported amosite & crocidolite

One laboratory reported chrysotile

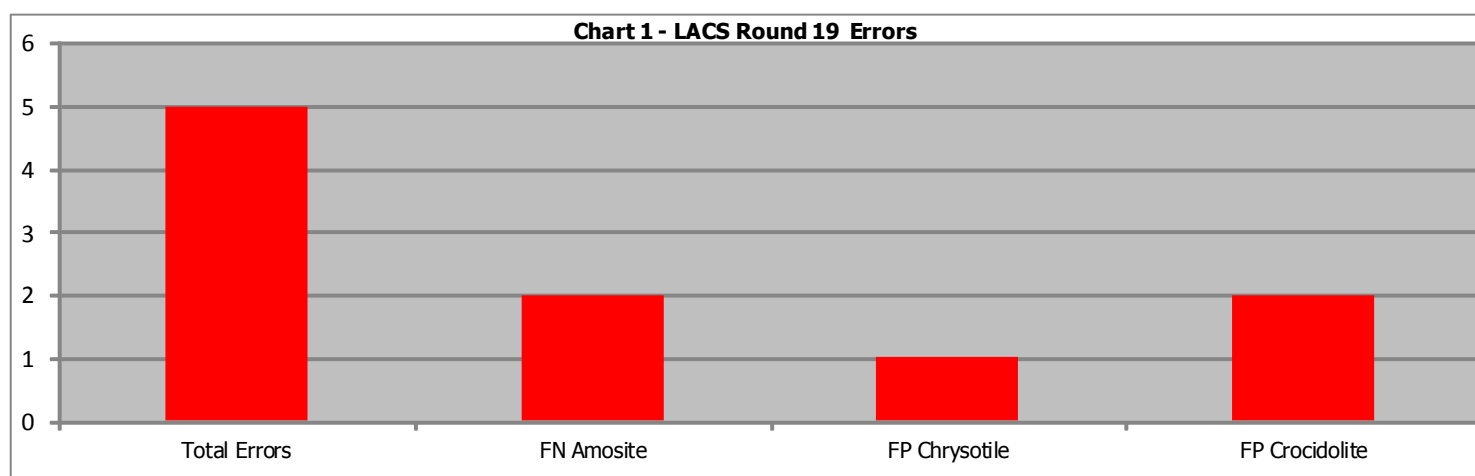
One laboratory reported no asbestos

These results are presented graphically in Charts 1 and 2.



1. Type Of Errors Obtained

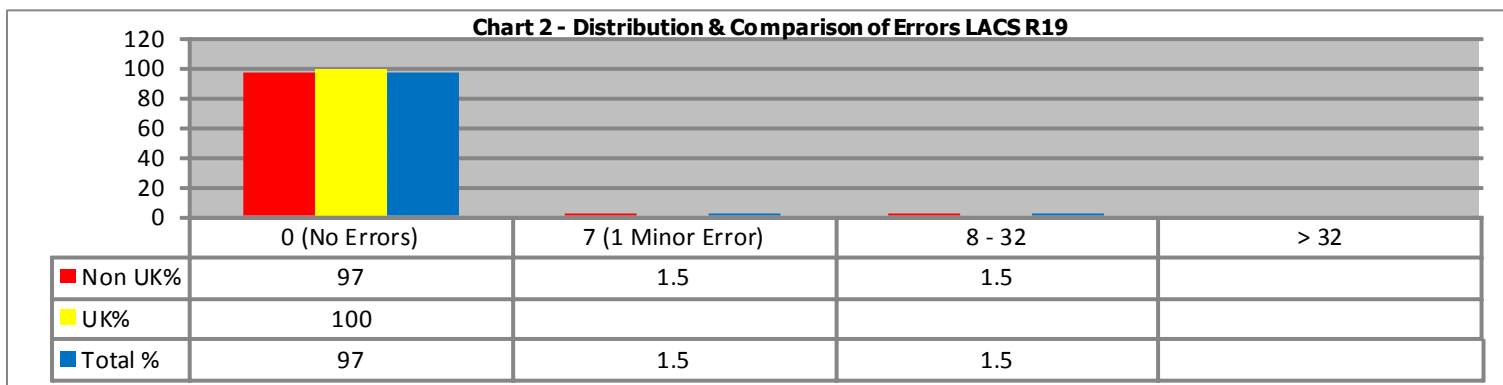
Chart 1 illustrates the errors made by participating laboratories. Five errors were made by laboratories on sample LACS019. Two reported amosite but also falsely reported crocidolite (2 x FP crocidolite), one falsely reported chrysotile (1 x FN amosite and 1 x FP chrysotile) and one reported no asbestos (1 x FN amosite).



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. 121 (97%) 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 117 (97%) Non-UK laboratories obtained a score of zero for the round.





Quantitative Results

For 2023/24, HSE are not providing quantitative samples for the Low Asbestos Content Scheme (LACS).

Additional Information

