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 the Health & Safety Laboratory on behalf of HSE’s Committee on Fibre Measurement (CFM). CFM includes representatives from HSE, HSL, UKAS, industry, analytical laboratories and other independent experts. A steering group within CFM, 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.

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.
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Rounds 103 – 106

4-Rail Services Limited
Unit 3
Metro Centre
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ABP Associates Ltd
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Millbrook
Southampton
SO15 0AE
UK

ACS Physical Risk Control (Glasgow) Ltd
UNIT 14
The Claremont Centre
Durham Street
Glasgow
G41 1BS
UK

ACS Physical Risk Control Ltd
Stuart House
The Back
Chepstow
NP16 5HH
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ALS Environmental Ltd
Torrington Avenue
Tile Hill
Coventry
CV4 9GU
UK

APEC Environmental Ltd
Office 5, Haywood House
Hydra Business Park
Nether Lane
Ecclesfield
Sheffield
S35 9ZX
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Hebburn
Tyne & Wear,
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ASI Environmental Ltd
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SO40 3AQ
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ASKAMS Compliance Services Ltd
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ASKAMS Compliance Services Ltd (Birchwood)
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Acorn Analytical Services Ltd
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Birstall
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Acron Asbestos Ltd
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87 Eastmuir Street
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Adams Environmental Ltd
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Kimpton Link Business Park
40 Kimpton Road
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SS17 9AA
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Air Surveys Ltd  
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Airsafe Analytical Limited  
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HSENI Scientific Services
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Omega Asbestos Consulting Ltd
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Fareham  
PO16 7BS  
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Quality Consultants NI Ltd  
Unit B9  
Inspire Business Park  
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Dundonald  
Belfast  
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Qualsurv Environmental Solutions Ltd  
Mortec Office Park  
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York Road  
Leeds  
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REC  
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Pacific Quay  
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REC Asbestos Ltd (Bishops Stortford)  
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Takeley  
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CM22 6TA  
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Middleton
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RPS Consultants (Milton Keynes)
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RSK Environment Ltd
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Resource and Environmental Consultants Limited
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Kent
BR8 7PQ
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SEMBCORP Utilities UK Ltd
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Middlesborough, Cleveland
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SGS MIS Environmental LTD
Eden House, Watling St Industrial Estate
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Santia Asbestos Management Ltd
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