

Asbestos Testing

Asbestos

Asbestos is the name given to a group of fibrous, naturally occurring, complex silicate minerals, including:

- **Chrysotile (White)**
- **Amosite (Brown)**
- **Anthophyllite**
- **Crocidolite (Blue)**
- **Actinolite**
- **Tremolite**

It is a class 1 carcinogen, and causes a range of respiratory diseases, such as asbestosis and mesothelioma—often remaining dormant for 15-40 years. The needle shaped fibres can lodge in the lungs but can take some time to cause symptoms.

Asbestos has been used by the construction industry in building materials in the UK until mid-1980. The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 which came into force 6 April 2012 reinforces the earlier regulations of 2006 which places a requirement on employers to protect their employees from exposure to asbestos.



Analysis of Samples

Recently UKAS requirements became more stringent, to ensure all laboratories were offering similar methods. HSG 248 'ASBESTOS: The analyst's guide for sampling, analysis and clearance procedures' provides guidance for testing laboratories. Quantification should be based on methods to include free fibres as well as any Asbestos Containing Material (ACM).

Stage 1 — Identification using Stereo-microscopy and Polarised Light Microscopy

Stage 2 — Quantification

Stage 3 — Quantification of free fibres by Phase Contrast Optical Microscopy (PCOM)

Quantification consists of gravimetric analysis of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs), where ACMs are handpicked from the samples and weighed.



Requirements for clients

- Any sample requiring asbestos analysis should be preformed on a separate sample—Samples which have been used for other analyses are not suitable.
- Samples suspected of containing asbestos must be double bagged.
- Samples suspected of containing asbestos should be labelled appropriately

Asbestos Testing...

How ELAB Can Help

ELAB provide P401 fully trained technicians to examine and identify all forms of asbestos and indicate the likely levels of operator exposure when handling sample material.

ELAB provides an independent asbestos identification service to brown field site developers, contractors demolishing or refurbishing a building or property owners looking to confirm the presence of Asbestos in the workplace. Samples can be turned around within one working day to establish the existence and extent of the problem or in less urgent cases, on a 3-5 day turnaround. Contact our Customer services team on the numbers below to discuss your Asbestos testing needs.

Using the latest technology including Polarised Light Microscopy (PLM), ELAB will be able to identify the type of asbestos in any bulk sample submitted or its presence in soil samples.

Other Testing Services

Our independent laboratory can also undertake testing of soil, water or leachate samples for contamination by:

- Heavy Metals
- TPH including CWG
- Total Organic Carbon (TOC)
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons
- Anions
- Electrical Conductivity
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Cyanides
- pH Values
- PAH, PCBs, VOCs, SVOC
- Sulphur Compounds
- WAC (Waste Acceptance Criteria)

Logistics

To help you prepare your samples, call and discuss your needs with our Technical team who will provide the appropriate containers in thermally insulated boxes for free transportation to our labs. These can be requested outside of normal working hours via our website using the appropriate form under the Logistics menu.

Free sample collection is also available so don't hesitate to call and book a local collection or National courier service to transport your samples safely and securely for processing. We also provide an online collection request form on our website at www.elab-uk.co.uk, under the Logistics menu so you can place your collection request at your convenience.



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