

Asbestos in Soils

Aim of the Program

The Asbestos in Soils program aims to evaluate the “accuracy” and reliability of results produced by identifiers in the area of asbestos in soils (relevant standard AS 5370 or the superseded AS 4964); and to provide participants with external quality assurance to enhance accuracy and reliability.

Application of the Program to Accreditation

Participation in this proficiency testing program satisfies the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories* for monitoring performance by comparing results with other laboratories.

Program Details

The Asbestos in Soils program is an annual program consisting of one round per year. Each round is conducted from March through to November. Two rounds of the program constitute a “cycle”.

Each identifier receives a set of five soil (or similar) samples containing asbestos or other fibres.

Participants are scheduled to a month in each round, during which they will receive five samples. Participants are requested to analyse independently the five samples provided, for the presence (including residual / trace asbestos if detected) of chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite asbestos AND the presence of inconclusive fibres (IF) / unknown mineral fibres (UMF), man-made vitreous fibres (MMVF) / synthetic mineral fibres (SMF) and organic fibres, according to their laboratory’s documented method.

Analysis:

The results obtained by each identifier are compared with the reference results. The identifier is then assigned a score for each sample.

Reporting:

Letters detailing the results of identifiers in the program are submitted to individual participants once results have been analysed. A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants will be emailed to participant facilities at the conclusion of a cycle (i.e. every two years).

Confidentiality

Each participant is assigned a unique code number, keeping all results anonymous in all PTA reports and publications.

Fees and Further Information

For information on program fees or other enquiries, please contact PTA directly: Email: ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au