



ASBESTOS TESTING SERVICES

ACCREDITED, INDEPENDENT TESTING OF MATERIALS FOR **ASBESTOS CONTENT**, ANALYSIS OF BULK AND AIRBORNE DUST SAMPLES FOR ASBESTOS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Throughout the UK, the EU and in many countries around the world, it is a requirement to hold accreditation to ISO 17025 for the analysis of airborne dust samples for asbestos concentration and for testing physical samples of building materials and other solid samples for asbestos content. For many consultancies and other organisations, the requirements and overheads to provide this inhouse are simply too onerous or costly.

An asbestos inspection body and consultancy in its own right, SGS MIS Environmental Ltd offers third-party analysis of samples for outside parties, extending the experience, quality and resources of our expanding laboratory throughout the world market.

UKAS ACCREDITED TESTING, FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND

SGS has over 25 years' experience and all of the required qualifications, expertise, insurance and an established track record in this field, accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO 17025. The UKAS badge is for your peace of mind and assurance of our impartiality, independence and integrity.

METHODS EMPLOYED

AIR TESTS

SGS offers analysis of filter samples from asbestos air tests. The sampling party (which might be an SGS site analyst or third party industrial hygienist, using a sampling pump), draws a set amount of air through a cellulose membrane filter paper in a sampling head, upon completion sending the sampling head to SGS. Upon receipt at the laboratory, the filter paper is removed, placed on a glass slide and collapsed using acetone vapour leaving only the collected dust on the slide. Using a Phase Contrast Microscope, the analyst then counts the number of asbestos-shaped fibres in a set number of fields of view, using data supplied from sampling on site, to calculate the concentration of asbestos in air.

The fibre counting system used is the World Health Organisation method from HSG248, which is comparable to NIOSH 7400.

BULK ANALYSIS

A bulk sample is any physical sample of material to be tested for asbestos content. Typical samples include roof sheets, insulation, floor tiles and other building products as investigated in an asbestos survey/asbestos inventory. Raw materials and products from factories around the world can also be tested for any asbestos content. Samples are placed inside two sealable bags and sent to the laboratory via a suitable courier. When received into the laboratory the sample is broken up under a low-powered microscope to pull out any suspicious fibres. These are then mounted on glass slides in a chemical (cargille liquid) that emphasises the optical effect caused by light refracting through them at different speeds from different angles. This is carried out using a Polarised Light Microscope (PLM).

The PLM method used and accredited is from HSG248 and is similar to the following international methods:

[EPA/600/R-93/116](#) / [NIOSH9002](#) / [OSHA ID-181](#)

WHY SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 80,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 1,650 offices and laboratories around the world.

Enhancing processes, systems and skills is fundamental to your ongoing success and sustained growth. We enable you to continuously improve, transforming your services and value chain by increasing performance, managing risks, better meeting stakeholder requirements and managing sustainability.

With a global presence, we have a history of successfully executing large-scale, complex international projects. Our people speak the language and understand the culture of the local market and operate in a consistent, reliable and effective manner.

TO LEARN HOW SGS CAN HELP YOU EXCEED CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS, VISIT WWW.SGS.CO.UK/ENVIRONMENTAL OR CONTACT GB.ENVIRONMENT@SGS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.