

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS ASBESTOS LABORATORY

A registered asbestos laboratory must have:

- (a) obtained accreditation in relevant asbestos tests listed in Part A, by the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) managed by the Industry Department or by a scheme with which HOKLAS has a mutual recognition agreement; and
- (b) satisfied the Asbestos Administration Committee that the laboratory is competent to perform the duties and functions required of a registered asbestos laboratory, as listed in Part B.

Part A

Accreditation Requirements

Types of asbestos test

1. Sampling of asbestos in bulk.
2. Identification of asbestos in bulk samples, using optical microscopy method.
3. Quantification of asbestos in bulk samples in accordance with the method approved by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands under section 2 of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.
4. Sampling of asbestos air-borne fibres and dust.
5. Fibre counting of asbestos air-borne samples, using optical microscopy method.

Minimum number of asbestos tests accredited

A registered asbestos laboratory must have at least obtained accreditation in tests 1,2,4 and 5.

Part B

Professional Competency

A registered asbestos laboratory should have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Asbestos Administration Committee that the laboratory is competent to perform the following duties and functions:

1. carry out sampling of substances suspected to be asbestos containing materials in premises, in accordance with instructions and sampling plans from a registered asbestos consultant;
2. identify asbestos in bulk samples and produce test report for inclusion in an asbestos investigation report for submission to the Authority;
3. carry out sampling of asbestos air-borne fibres and dust, in accordance with instructions and air sampling plan from a registered asbestos consultant, and in accordance with an asbestos management plan or an asbestos abatement plan;
4. count fibres in asbestos air-borne samples and produce measurement results for interpretation by a registered asbestos consultant;
5. maintain quality assurance programme for the tests accredited;
6. provide adequately trained and competent laboratory and field staff to perform sampling, analysis and measurement of asbestos in accordance with methods, specifications, techniques and procedures as set out in the in-house manuals;
7. handle, store, transport and dispose of asbestos wastes in accordance with relevant code of practice and legislation;
8. provide continued in-house training to laboratory staff covering use and hazard of asbestos, use of respirators, relevant legislations, and site safety.