

Asbestos Testing

Asbestos is a category 1 carcinogen, and asbestos related diseases cause 4000 deaths per year.

Derwentside Environmental is recognised as a centre of excellence and leading laboratory for asbestos analysis, and one of the first to receive accreditation for quantification in soils.

Accreditation

DETS holds UKAS accreditation to ISO 17025 for:

- Identification of asbestos in bulk materials and soils using stereo and Polarised Light Microscopy, based on HSG 248
- The Quantification of asbestos in soils, loose aggregates and ballast, based on HSG 264 (ACM) and HSE document No. 83/1996 (free fibres)
- The 'Water Absorption Test' to determine whether an Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) is licensable, based on HSE L143

Asbestos in Soils Methodology

Identification - using PLM

Quantification - gravimetric quantification of ACM (asbestos containing materials) with a reporting limit of 0.1% (dependent on sample quality). This can only be reported separately if > 0.1%, and if the sample is required for waste classification only. Also, loose fibre quantification by sedimentation and Phase Contrast Optical Microscopy, with a reporting limit of 0.001%.

Staff Qualifications

All asbestos analysts hold a minimum of the BOHS P401 qualification, plus designated staff are additionally qualified to BOHS 402, 403 and S301.

Proficiency Testing Schemes

DETS participates in the proficiency testing scheme AIMS (Asbestos in Materials Scheme) and currently has achieved a perfect score of zero errors in every round since October 2007.

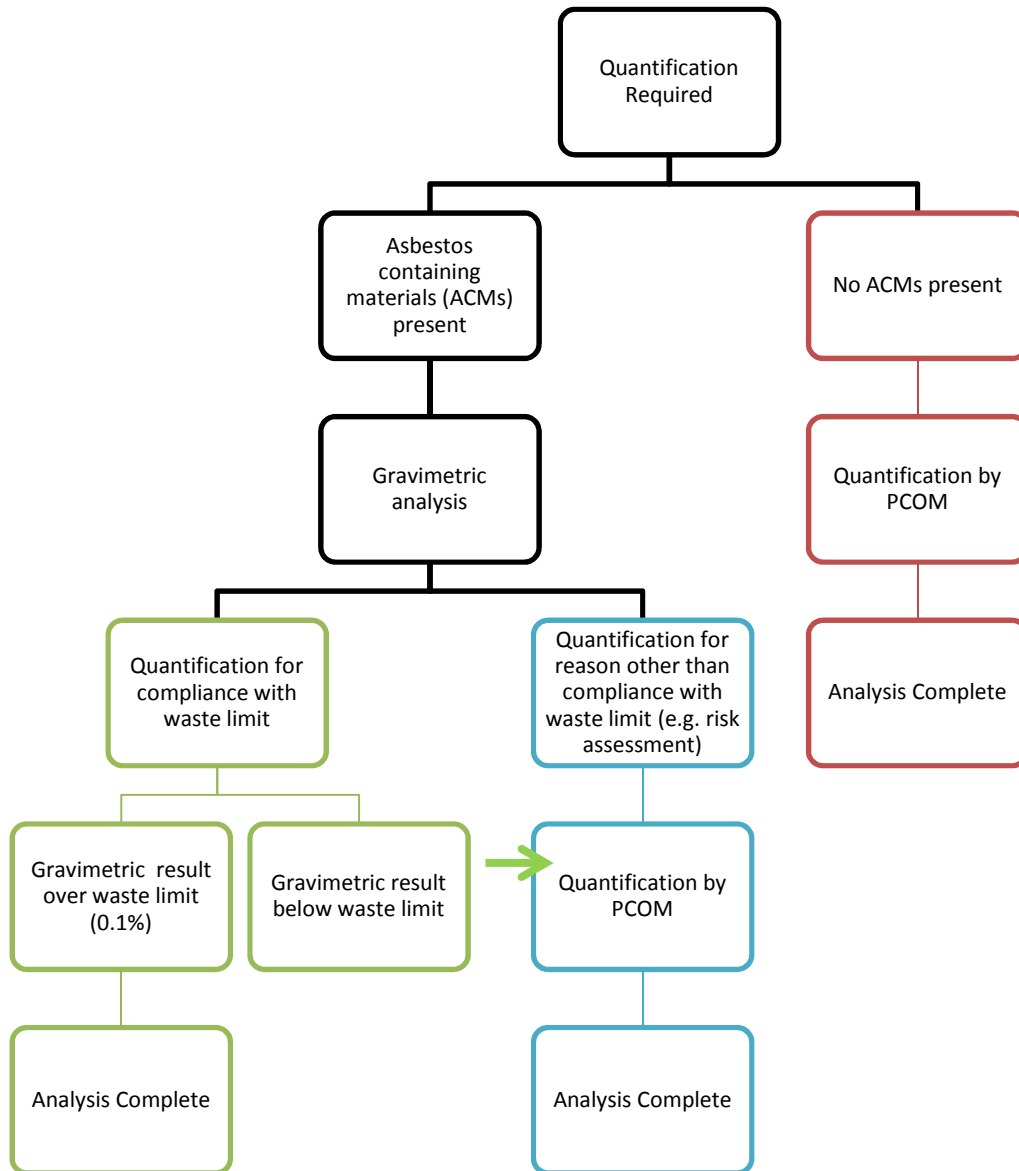
Turnaround

DETS standard turnaround for asbestos identification is 5 working days, with 24 and 48 hour turnarounds available (surcharge applies), depending upon workloads.

Asbestos Analysis Flowchart for Quantification

This flowchart begins **AFTER** the initial analysis has taken place, i.e. the sample has already been screened, dried and analysed. The type of quantification required is then determined using the flowchart:

For more detailed information on asbestos see our 'Asbestos - Background info' flyer.



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DETS – dependable data, dependable delivery