



# Department of Health

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**Web Site Due Date: 10/02/2025**

Dear

The Proficiency Test samples for Asbestos in Air, Asbestos in NOB Materials and Asbestos in Water analysis are enclosed. Each test is enclosed in a separate package to eliminate cross contamination. Upon receipt, examine the package contents carefully to check for incorrect or damaged samples. Requests for replacements will be honored only while supplies last. Call the PT Program at (518) 473-3383 for replacement samples. The PT Data Management website is on <https://commerce.health.ny.gov>

The instructions for all three tests are included in the box containing the Asbestos in Water samples. If your lab is not certified for Asbestos in Water, then the paper work will be included in the Asbestos in Air package.

ATTENTION: An analytical result is required for each matrix-technology-analyte combination accredited or sought. Laboratories accredited for two or more methods that use the same technology for a given matrix-analyte combination can report for each method using menu option 7 on the PT Data Management website. A laboratory specific listing of methods and method codes sorted by technology has been included as an aid. Reporting methods that have not been previously applied for will result in an unsatisfactory score.

**THE PWA ASBESTOS AMPUL MUST BE DILUTED AND FILTERED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT.**

Answers sheets are available for your internal use as a download under option 8 on the PT Data Management website. Please fill out the answer sheets and retain them for your records and assessment by ELAP. Please note that the attestation form has been discontinued and is no longer included. The sample set you received was based on your laboratory's current or pending accreditation. Any change(s) (i.e. additions or deletions) in the list of analytes/methods for which your laboratory desires accreditation must be made in writing to the ELAP Program Office, using the appropriate category application form PRIOR to the last test date of this PT study.

Website PT data submission is the required method for data submission and requires a HPN User ID, password and page permission. Requests for a new HPN account can be made to ELAP at (518) 485-5570. It can take up to four weeks to establish a new account. The web site has two ways of submitting data: on-line entry and spreadsheet file download/upload.

The deadline for submitting data online is printed in the upper right corner of this letter. Laboratories that fail to report the data within the prescribed time will be recorded as non-participants. If your laboratory wishes to withdraw from this study for an analyte(s) or for the entire study, please contact the NYSDOH Environmental PT program on or BEFORE the closing date (i.e., "website submission" date) of the PT study (Phone:(518) 473-3383 or E-mail: [dehspt@health.ny.gov](mailto:dehspt@health.ny.gov) ).

Laboratories may request that other accrediting authorities receive a copy of their proficiency test scores. Use Menu Option 9 on the Proficiency Test Data Management webpage to select the recipients for your final report. If you have used this feature in past studies, those authorities will be displayed. Make sure to copy them into the current shipment by clicking the copy button. You can also add and delete to further customize your list.

Please provide us with your feedback on any issues related to the PT Program including the current study. While the study is open you may select option 10 on the PT Data Management page menu to provide feedback. Otherwise and at any time, please direct any comments, feedback, or questions to us via email at [dehspt@health.ny.gov](mailto:dehspt@health.ny.gov).

# New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center

## Proficiency Test Instruction Sheet

**Instruction Sheet ID:** PWAASB2  
**Name:** POTABLE WATER ASBESTOS

**Date Printed:** 09/02/2025

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATERBORNE ASBESTOS ANALYSIS BY TEM

#### **Safety Information**

Precautions should be taken to avoid exposure by the principal routes of entry including: contact with skin and eyes, inhalation, and ingestion. Store away from incompatible materials. Ensure that laboratory procedures, engineering controls and personal protective equipment (PPE) are appropriate and adequate for all staff who may come into contact with these compounds/materials. This product is intended for use by trained laboratory personnel.

#### **Sample Preparation Instructions**

This proficiency test is composed of one 20-mL aqueous suspension in a 30-mL HDPE bottle. Also enclosed with this package is an ELAP Proficiency Test Answer Sheet. If you have not received the bottle in good condition, contact ELAP immediately.

THE SAMPLE MUST BE DILUTED AND FILTERED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT. The sample should be treated as a fresh preparation that has not been preserved or autoclaved. Loss of fibers should be expected if the sample is not filtered promptly. Invert ampul repeatedly for one minute, agitate in an ultrasonic bath for 30 minutes, invert repeatedly for another minute, and agitate in an ultrasonic bath for another 30 minutes. Immediately thereafter remove the bottle from the ultrasonic bath, screw off its top and transfer its ENTIRE contents into 960mL of 0.1-um-filtered distilled or deionized water. Immediately rinse the empty bottle with 20-mL of fresh 0.1-um-filtered distilled or deionized water and transfer this to the 980-mL suspension just generated. From the sample, the laboratory should filter several volumes through the method specified filter to ensure optimal loading for analysis.

#### **Analysis Instructions**

These filter preparations must be analyzed in accordance with either EPA Method 100.1 or 100.2.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY LONG (>10 um) ASBESTOS FIBERS WILL BE REPORTED IN THIS PROFICIENCY TEST. Ideally, analysis should be performed on a filtered volume that yields between 5 and 20 long asbestos fibers per grid opening. Analysis must be performed at a screen magnification of at least 10,000X. At least four grid openings (from three different grids) must be analyzed and analysis must not be terminated in the middle of a grid opening. Analysis may be terminated only after achieving a sensitivity of 0.2 million fibers per liter (MFL) or less.

Treat the proficiency test sample in the same manner as the majority of routinely tested samples. Proficiency test results are to be generated by integrating the PT sample into the laboratory's normal workload and analyzed the same number of times by the same methods as routine samples.

#### **Reporting Instructions**

Results must be calculated in accordance with the formulae from the 1983 Chatfield method so that Amphibole Best Estimate and Chrysotile Best Estimate (Section 8.1) are combined for an Overall Asbestos Best Estimate (ABE). Report using no more than 3 significant figures.

Laboratories under test are not to reveal their results or any other aspect of this test to any unauthorized person or another laboratory under test until after reports for this test have been released.