



Specific Accreditation Criteria

ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Life Sciences - Annex

Asbestos sampling and testing

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Purpose

In addition to the *ISO/IEC 17025 Standard Application Document (SAD)* and the accompanying *Life Science - Appendix*, this document provides interpretative criteria and recommendations for both applicant and accredited facilities conducting asbestos sampling and/or testing in accordance with part A (Common criteria), part B (Determination of airborne fibre concentrations) and/or part C (Asbestos identification in bulk samples) of the annex.

Facilities must comply with all relevant documents in the NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Environment (refer to *NATA Procedures for Accreditation*).

The clause numbers in this document follow those of ISO/IEC 17025, however, since not all clauses require interpretation, the numbering may not be consecutive.

Part A: Common criteria

5 Structural requirements

5.3

Ad hoc sampling and testing

Ad hoc describes a one-off sampling or testing activity that occurs with minimal planning such as response to a fire or suspected asbestos detection at short notice. This differs from a field site which requires planning and an agreement with the customer on the scope and duration of the work.

Ad hoc sampling and testing in the field is not considered to be a field site. A facility must ensure that equipment used for ad hoc sampling and testing and the environmental conditions where testing occurs comply with the criteria for accreditation.

Records must be maintained of equipment checks and environmental conditions including background fibre counts for each ad hoc sampling and testing event.

Field sites

A field site is established for the purposes of testing associated with a single contract at a single site for no longer than 12 months.

Prior to the commencement of sampling and/or testing on-site, the base site (site from which the on-site activities are managed) must forward a completed *Notification of Establishment of a Field Site* form which includes a declaration of conformance which must be signed by the NATA Authorised Representative. This form can be obtained from the Accreditation Publications section of NATA's website (under *Specific Accreditation Forms: Life Sciences Field Sites for Asbestos Testing*).

NATA will not proceed with a facility's application of the establishment of a new field site until all information requested in the *Notification of Establishment of a Field Site* form has been satisfactorily provided by the facility. NATA will also take into account the accreditation history of the facility when considering any such application.

Written notification from NATA of the establishment of a field site will be forwarded to the Authorised Representative. This will include the effective start date, finish date, a unique field site identification number and the updated scope of accreditation of the base site.

The start date is defined as the date from which accreditation can be claimed for the field site. This start date will not, under any circumstances, be prior to the date of NATA's receipt of the satisfactorily completed *Notification of Establishment of a Field Site* form.

The finish date is defined as the date at which the operation of the field site is anticipated to end as indicated by the facility at the time of the establishment of the field site. This cannot be longer than 12 months. If a field site is to be established for longer than 12 months, an application for accreditation of a permanent site must be made.

NATA will provide written confirmation of authorisation of a field site within 5 working days of receipt of the completed *Notification of Establishment of a Field Site* form.

Once accreditation to establish field sites has been granted, the base site may establish field sites within Australia on an ongoing basis provided that the criteria within this document are met.

Note: Each field site established is for one project and will require completion of *Notification of Establishment of a Field Site* form.

When a field site ceases operation, the Authorised Representative is required to notify NATA within two weeks. If a project is extended past 12 months an application for a permanent site must be made.

A sample of field sites in operation will be assessed in conjunction with scheduled assessment activities (surveillance visit and reassessment) or as a separate assessment activity, depending on the circumstances.

The facility must ensure that personnel and a sample of the equipment, the procedures adopted, and all associated records for field sites that are in operation or have closed since the last assessment activity are available for review during the NATA assessment of the base site.

The assessment of field sites is expected to be undertaken face to face, however, where appropriate, consideration will be given to the use of virtual technology(ies) where the field site is remote or access to the field site will pose an unacceptable risk to the assessment team.

Where a facility operates more than one field site NATA will establish a schedule of visits to sample the sites.

Assessment of field sites

The assessment of field sites shall be conducted using a risk-based sampling approach, taking into account the number of field sites operated by the base site, their geographic distribution, duration of operation, and the volume and nature of work undertaken.

Assessment during scheduled assessment activities

Where a base site operates a limited number of field sites, and it is practicable to assess a representative sample without compromising the assessment of the base site, assessment of field sites may be conducted as part of the scheduled surveillance visit or reassessment.

This may include a combination of:

- on-site visits to selected field sites;
- virtual observation of field site activities where appropriate; and/or
- review of records and reports generated at field sites.

Assessment as a separate activity

Where a base site operates a large number of field sites, or where it is not practicable to assess a representative sample of field sites during the scheduled assessment, assessment of field sites shall be undertaken as a separate assessment activity (e.g. staff visit).

In such cases, the assessment shall focus on:

- the base site's management system;
- authorisation, supervision and technical control of field sites; and

- review of records demonstrating oversight of field site activities.

Staff visits will be a chargeable activity as per the fee schedule current at the time of the visit.

The selection, timing and scope of any separate assessment activity shall be determined by NATA based on risk. Every effort will be made to organise additional staff visit (if needed) in conjunction with a scheduled activity (i.e. RES or SRV). For example, the RES 1 day followed by the STF the next day. This will be managed on a case-by-case basis by the Lead Assessor in conjunction with the facility to be assessed.

Selection of field sites for assessment

When selecting field sites for assessment, NATA shall consider, as applicable:

- whether the field site is operational or has recently closed;
- duration of operation of the field site;
- geographic location, including remoteness;
- volume and type of work undertaken;
- use of new or inexperienced personnel;
- changes to equipment, methods or supervision arrangements; and
- any complaints, concerns or previous nonconformities.

The approach adopted shall ensure that, over time, field site activities are subject to appropriate assessment coverage.

5.4

Field sites

The facility must have a documented procedure for the establishment of a field site(s) covering the following, but not limited to:

- accommodation;
- equipment setup and maintenance;
- personnel and supervision arrangements;
- record maintenance.

If a facility wishes to establish a field site for asbestos sampling and/or testing in a country other than Australia, it should first determine whether the Australian facility's NATA scope of accreditation will be accepted (e.g. with any local regulators). Further, as NATA is a signatory to the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) and the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs), NATA is obligated to encourage facilities seeking accreditation in other countries to do so with the local signatory Accreditation Body if available.

A field site can be covered by the facility's NATA scope of accreditation if the following criteria are satisfied:

- be located on-site (or in very close proximity to) where the samples are to be collected for the duration of a project;
- be established to test only samples from a single project;
- be located in a suitable environment for testing, taking into consideration the need to ensure sample integrity and prevention of the dissemination of potential asbestos containing material;

Note: Short term accommodation including hotel/motel rooms and similar forms of accommodation are not considered appropriate environments in which to undertake asbestos testing.

- operated by asbestos analysts who usually work out of the base site.

The facility must have a documented procedure for the establishment of a field site(s) covering the following, but not limited to:

- accommodation;
- equipment setup and maintenance;
- personnel and supervision arrangements;
- record maintenance.

6 Resource requirements

6.2 Personnel

6.2.5 Where field sites have been established, supervisory visits by personnel located at the base site must take place at least once per week. Personnel conducting these visits must be in a position of authority and approved to review sample collection, volume measurement, fibre counting and/or fibre identification. Such visits are not required where supervisory personnel are located at the field site for the duration of its operation. Records sufficiently detailed to identify what activities were performed during the supervisory visits must be kept.

6.2.6 Results of asbestos fibre counting and identification must be released by personnel approved by the facility as an asbestos analyst.

6.3 Facilities and environmental conditions

6.3.4 Precautions may need to be taken at field sites to define and control access to minimise the risk of exposure to personnel.

6.4 Equipment

6.4.3 The procedures for microscope set-up and other associated test activities must be documented and available to personnel at the facility and at any field site(s).

6.4.7 Facilities are responsible for establishing their own equipment assurance program to ensure consistent results are produced. Guidance on equipment assurance and calibration is available in Technical Papers published by the Australian Institute for Occupational Hygiene (AIOH).

6.4.13 Records of the specific equipment and the date(s) of use at field sites must be kept.

7 Process Requirements

7.3 Sampling

7.3.1 Facilities may choose to be accredited for the development of sampling plans as a standalone activity if they are not involved in the testing aspects (whether this is for volume measurement and/or determination of asbestos concentration and/or asbestos identification).

When developing sampling plans, consideration should be given to the adoption of standard methods where available however, accreditation for the use of in-house methods may also be considered.

Note: Some examples of standard methods include ASTM E2356, D7201, E1368.

The assessment of sampling activities is expected to be undertaken face to face, however, where appropriate, consideration will be given to the use of virtual technology(ies) where the field site is remote or access to the field site will pose an unacceptable risk to the assessment team.

Part B: Determination of airborne fibre concentrations

5 Structural requirements

5.3 The facility may only issue asbestos fibre concentration results under its scope of accreditation if it takes responsibility for the sample collection, including volume measurement.

This responsibility requires the facility to confirm the placement of pumps in accordance with the documented sampling plan for a specific job and confirm that their set-up and use has been in accordance with the facility's procedure.

Refer to the NATA *Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Life Sciences - Appendix* for the requirements for reporting quantitative results derived from activities where a volume measurement has been undertaken.

6 Resource requirements

6.2 Personnel

6.2.5 The facility must document the approval of personnel authorised to perform sample collection (volume measurement of air) and asbestos fibre counting.

Evidence of the competency of personnel for sample collection can include but is not limited to:

- use of pumps and flow measuring equipment including set-up, calibration and in-field pre and post sampling check;
- demonstrated competency for the placement of pumps in strategic locations dependent on the purpose for the specific job;
- demonstrated knowledge of the sampling procedure and other referenced methods in use by the facility, including information available from the AIOH Technical Papers related to airborne sampling equipment;
- demonstrated knowledge of any specific and relevant regulations.

Evidence of the competency of personnel for asbestos fibre counting can include but is not limited to:

- an evaluation of the theory of the methodology and satisfactory practical demonstration of counting;
- operation and maintenance of microscopes including Kohler illumination;

Note: Other microscope related tasks can include but are not limited to the alignment of the phase ring with telescoping lens, resolution checks with HSE/NPL test slide or suitable alternative, and traceable micrometer slide, etc.

- satisfactory results of internal quality control activities;
- participation and satisfactory performance in proficiency testing programs.

Where relevant and available, external courses which provide an understanding of volume measurement and estimating airborne asbestos fibre concentration should be considered.

The system for evaluation and monitoring of personnel approved to perform sample collection and counting of asbestos fibres must include activities for refresher training

to be undertaken by personnel who have not performed the activity(ies) for extended periods, for example, 3 months or greater. For asbestos counting, such refresher training may include participation in internal quality control activities and external proficiency testing.

6.4 Equipment

6.4.1 Sampling pumps used in the collection of air for asbestos fibre counting must have a mechanism (e.g. fault light) to indicate flow interruption during the sampling period.

6.4.10 Immediately prior to and after cessation of the sampling activity, the flow rate of each sampling train must be checked using a suitably calibrated instrument in accordance with the requirements in part 8 of the NOHSC *Guidance note on the membrane filter method* (MFM) or other reference method. All pre and post flow measurements must be conducted in the field at the sampling site.

Pre-determined flow rates of sampling trains (e.g. flowrates which have not been measured immediately prior to and post sampling) must not be used to calculate sample volumes for the determination of fibre concentration.

7 Process Requirements

7.2 Selection, verification and validation of methods

7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

7.2.1.1 The *Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres 2nd Edition* [NOHSC:3003 (2005)] which is published by Safe Work Australia, incorporates the following main activities:

- sample collection, involving in-field measurement of the volume of air sampled using calibrated equipment (e.g. sampling pumps and flow measuring equipment);
- volume measurement to occur in-field at the documented pump location, when samples are first placed and then again when collected;
- analysis of the samples using phase contrast microscopy (i.e. counting fibres using appropriate equipment, sizing of the fibres using a calibrated eyepiece graticule and calibrated effective filter area).

Where another method is used, the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 clause 7.2 apply.

7.2.1.2 A copy of the method used, and a copy of all associated facility documentation must be kept at the base site and at each field site.

7.3 Sampling

7.3.1 The placement of air sampling pumps in the field is critical and dependent on the development and application of appropriate sampling plans. For facilities accredited for volume measurement, the development of sampling plans will be reviewed as part of the assessment.

7.5 Technical records

7.5.1 Records must include the individual fibre count for each field examined.

7.7 Ensuring the validity of results

7.7.1 Internal quality control (QC) must cover all personnel, including those performing activities at any field sites.

QC activities must include the use of a blind-counting set of reference slides and recounts of routine slides. The reference slides must contain greater than approximately 10 fibres per 100 graticule fields (i.e. be statistically countable).

The facility must establish limits on the number of samples to be examined by an asbestos analyst in a specified period. These limits will be influenced by the number of difficult slides being counted.

Note: It is considered that 12 'average' samples per day is reasonable, but this limit can be in the range of 10 to 20 per day.

Field blanks and analytical blanks must be used. Field blanks are to be used at a minimum frequency of 1, for up to every 50 filters used, per air monitoring shift per site. The same field blank cannot be used for multiple shifts or multiple sites. For analytical blanks, for each batch of 100 filters received, 1 unused filter must be selected.

7.7.2 Facilities must participate in a proficiency testing (PT) program for asbestos fibre counting. A program for participation of all asbestos analysts must be established to ensure that each participates in the proficiency program over a defined period.

7.8 Reporting of results

7.8.2 Common requirements for reports (test, calibration or sampling)

7.8.2.1 Reports, including preliminary reports, must include the name of the asbestos analyst and the person(s) who undertook the volume measurement.

Refer to the *NATA Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Life Sciences - Appendix* for requirements for reporting results as fibres per millilitre.

7.8.3 Specific requirements for test reports

7.8.3.1

Facilities must have prepared the slides used to obtain the results included in the report.

Reports for estimation of airborne respirable asbestos fibres performed for Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulatory purposes must include reference to the applicable regulatory requirement.

Results of work undertaken at a field site must identify the location of that field site.

7.8.5 Where a facility is accredited only for volume measurement, refer to the *NATA Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Life Sciences - Appendix* for reporting the required information to the facility undertaking the fibre counting analytical work.

Part C: Asbestos identification in bulk samples

6 Resource requirements

6.2 Personnel

6.2.5 Facilities must document the approval of appropriate personnel authorised to perform asbestos fibre identification.

Evidence of personnel competency can include but is not limited to:

- an evaluation of the knowledge of the testing undertaken and the theory upon which this testing is based;
- satisfactory results of internal quality control activities;
- participation and satisfactory performance in proficiency programs.

The system for evaluation and monitoring of personnel approved to identify asbestos fibres must include activities for refresher training to be undertaken by personnel who have not performed the activity(ies) for extended periods, for example 3 months or greater. For asbestos fibre identification, such refresher training may include participation in internal quality control activities and external proficiency testing.

7 Process Requirements

7.2 Selection, verification and validation of methods

7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

7.2.1.1 The test method(s) used must:

- differentiate between asbestos fibres and the non-fibrous parent material;
- apply to both homogeneous and non-homogeneous materials;
- be capable of identifying asbestos fibre type(s) in accordance with the standard method(s) for which accreditation is held;
- include reporting limits, established as part of the method's validation.

For laboratories accredited to AS 5370, reporting is limited to the detection and identification of asbestos fibres in bulk materials in accordance with Clause 10 of that standard. Non-asbestos fibres, including man-made vitreous fibres (MMVF) and organic fibres, may be observed during analysis but are not required to be formally analysed or reported as AS 5370 provides no diagnostic criteria or reporting requirements for such fibres.

For laboratories accredited to AS 4964, the method includes identification of non-asbestos fibres (e.g. SMF and organic fibres) to the extent required by that standard, and appropriate definitions and identification criteria shall be documented in supporting procedures.

Note: Requirements applicable to AS 4964 do not apply to reporting under AS 5370 unless explicitly stated.

AS 4964 - Non-asbestos fibres

For laboratories accredited to AS 4964, the method requires the analyst to distinguish asbestos fibres from other fibre types that may be present, including synthetic mineral fibres (SMF) and organic fibres.

Supporting procedures/work instructions shall include appropriate definitions and criteria to support consistent identification of SMF and organic fibres where relevant.

SMF may be described in generic terms as fibres exhibiting isotropic optical characteristics (e.g. glass fibres, glass wool, rock wool, slag wool, ceramic fibres, and bio-soluble fibres).

Organic fibres may be described in generic terms as fibres that ash at approximately $400 \pm 30^\circ\text{C}$ (e.g. cellulose, hemp, cotton, flax, jute, wool, polypropylene, polyester, nylon, Kevlar, acrylic).

Reporting of non-asbestos fibres under AS 4964 shall be limited to generic descriptions only.

AS 5370 - Non-asbestos fibres

AS 5370 is an asbestos identification standard for bulk materials and does not require laboratories to analyse for or report non-asbestos fibres such as man-made vitreous fibres (MMVF) or organic fibres.

Such fibres may be observed during analysis; however, AS 5370 provides no diagnostic criteria or reporting framework for non-asbestos fibres. Reporting requirements under Clause 10 relate to the detection and identification of asbestos fibres only.

The example test report in Annex H is informative and has been deleted by national variation; it does not establish a reporting requirement for non-asbestos fibres.

Where other fibres are noted, this information may be retained in laboratory records or working notes but is not required to be included in the test report unless otherwise specified.

7.2.2 Validation of methods

If accreditation is sought for the identification of actinolite, anthophyllite and tremolite asbestos, a fully validated method including limits of detection must be available. ISO 22262 part 2 and/or part 3 and HSE HSG248 meet these requirements.

Note: AS 4964 (2004) and AS 5370 do not support the reporting of actinolite, anthophyllite and tremolite without an additional independent Electron Microscopy (EM) confirmatory testing technique.

7.3 Sampling

7.3.1 Where the facility is responsible for sampling activities, the development and application of appropriate sampling plans is required. Samples collected must be representative of the bulk material from the whole area being sampled.

7.4 Handling of test or calibration items

7.4.1 In general, the facility should not subsample non-homogeneous samples because of the high probability that small amounts of asbestos materials may be

unintentionally omitted due to the sampling process. However, where subsampling is performed:

- a validated method shall be used;
- an appropriate qualifying statement is to be included in the test report advising customers of the potential for invalid results;
- the subsampling method must be referenced in the test report.

7.5 Technical records

7.5.1 Records must include all original data and observations, so that the conclusions as to the identification of fibres can be checked. Records of these observations must be made contemporaneously.

7.7 Ensuring the validity of results

7.7.1 Internal quality control (QC) activities must cover all personnel, including those performing activities at any field sites.

QC activities must include the use of samples covering asbestos types and matrices covered by the scope of accreditation, including, where applicable, synthetic mineral fibres and organic fibres.

7.7.2 Facilities must participate in a proficiency testing (PT) program for the sample matrices covered by the scope of accreditation. A program for participation of all asbestos analysts must be established to ensure that each participates in the proficiency program over a defined period.

Note: The definition of sample matrices is that described in the standard method used.

7.8 Reporting of results

7.8.2 Common requirements for reports (test, calibration or sampling)

7.8.2.1 Reports, including preliminary reports, must include the name of the asbestos analyst.

7.8.3 Specific requirements for test reports

7.8.3.1 Facilities must have prepared the samples used to obtain the results included in reports.

Where a standard method such as AS 4964 (2004), ISO 22262-1 or HSE HSG248, requires additional in-house methodology, reference to the in-house method must be included in the report.

Reports must specify the type(s) of asbestos detected (i.e. actinolite, amosite, anthophyllite, chrysotile, crocidolite, tremolite).

If identification is not possible due to adhering resins or cements, or because of degradation of the fibres, an explanatory note to that effect must be included on the report.

Quantitative estimates of asbestos percentage (%) content in homogeneous and non-homogeneous samples shall not be included in reports unless included in the standard method used.

Results of work undertaken at a field site must identify the location of that field site.

Reported details of sample history, including size and/or weight and position in relation to the area from which it was taken, when known, must provide sufficient information to ensure that results can be correctly interpreted.

Where AS 4964 (2004) is used, analysis and reporting of non-homogeneous samples, including but not limited to soils and dusts, shall:

- be in accordance with sections 9.4 and 9.5;
- the detection limit be in accordance with section 8.4 including note 7;
- not include presence / absence criteria.

AS 4964 (2004) requires the test report to include a factual description (e.g. form, dimensions and/or weight) of the asbestos fibres present.

AS 5370 requires that asbestos containing material and/or asbestos fibres shall not be reported in any form when the result is below the limit of reporting.

If accreditation is held to AS 5370, facilities can choose another valid method for which they hold accreditation to report the presence of asbestos that does not include a reporting limit where a named jurisdiction has a requirement to report any asbestos detected. Where an additional method is used, this must be followed as written in full. By adopting this panel approach facilities can meet the reporting requirements of the jurisdiction without compromising the individual methods used.

References

This section lists publications referenced in this document. The year of publication and edition is not included as it is expected that only current versions of the references shall be used.

Standards

AS 4964 (2004) *Method for the qualitative identification of asbestos in bulk samples*

AS 5370 *Sampling and qualitative identification of asbestos in bulk samples* (ISO 22262-1:2012, MOD)

HSE HSG248 *Asbestos: The Analysts' Guide (2021) Appendix 2: Determination of asbestos in bulk materials*

ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 22262-1 *Air quality - Bulk materials - Part 1: Sampling and qualitative determination of asbestos in commercial bulk materials*

ISO 22262-2 *Air quality - Bulk materials - Part 2: Quantitative determination of asbestos by gravimetric and microscopical methods*

ISO 22262-3 *Air quality - Bulk materials - Part 3: Quantitative determination of asbestos by X-ray diffraction method*

NATA Publications

Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, Life Sciences - Appendix

General Accreditation Criteria: Use of the NATA emblem, NATA endorsement and references to accreditation

NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Environment

Other Publications

Australian Institute for Occupational Hygiene, Technical Papers

<https://www.aioh.org.au/resources/publications/>

Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres [NOHSC: 3003 (2005)]

Amendment Table

The table below provides a summary of changes made to the document with this issue.

Section or Clause	Amendment
Whole document	Minor editorial changes.
<u>Part A</u> 5.3	Added clarification that ad hoc sampling and testing does not constitute a field site and revised criteria for establishing field sites, including: notification and approval process, NATA response within 5 working days of notification, maximum 12-month operation for a field site, and schedule for visiting field sites.
6.2.1	Removed description of employment status as this is covered by ISO/IEC 17025.
<u>Part B</u> 5.3	Added reference to <i>Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, Life Sciences - Appendix</i> for requirements for reporting quantitative results generated from volume measurement activities.
6.2.5	Under the note, clarified the requirements for test slides.
7.7.1	Added clarification that for each batch of 100 filters received, 1 unused filter must be selected as an analytical blank.
7.8.2.1	Clarified that reports must include the name of the <i>person(s)</i> who undertook the volume measurement to recognise that more than one person might be involved. Added a reference to the <i>Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, Life Sciences - Appendix</i> for reporting of quantitative results.
7.8.3.1	Removed duplication of concentration reporting requirements which are now fully covered in the <i>Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, Life Sciences - Appendix</i> . Retained only method-specific reporting requirements (e.g., WHS regulatory references, field site identification, and slide-preparation requirements).
7.8.5	Consolidated all reporting requirements for facilities accredited only for volume measurement into this clause; removed all related duplicated text from 7.8.3.

Section or Clause	Amendment
<p><u>Part C</u> 7.2.1.1</p>	<p>Clarified requirements for non-asbestos fibres, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distinguishing the treatment of SMF/MMVF and organic fibres under AS 4964 versus AS 5370; • confirming that AS 5370 does not provide diagnostic criteria or reporting requirements for non-asbestos fibres; • specifying that non-asbestos fibres under AS 4964 are to be described in generic terms only.
7.5.1	<p>Added requirement that records of observations must be made contemporaneously.</p>
7.7.1	<p>Clarified that QC activities should include samples covering asbestos types and matrices within the scope of accreditation, and removed the requirement for recounts of routine slides.</p>
References	<p>Updated HSG248 reference to 2021 edition.</p> <p>Moved NOHSC <i>Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres</i> to “Other Publications” to reflect its regulatory guidance-document status.</p> <p>Added reference to <i>Specific Accreditation Criteria: ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document, Life Sciences - Appendix</i>.</p>