

	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	ISSUE DATE: November 21, 2012
	LAB BULLETIN	NUMBER: LB-69-2012
		LAP: Asbestos Fiber Analysis - TEM
SUBJECT: Disclaimer to Be Added to TEM Test Reports		

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that laboratories report specific information on test reports for TEM per 40 CFR, Part 763, Subpart E, Appendix A, Ch. 1 (7-1-89 Edition). NVLAP has incorporated this information into NIST Handbook 150-13, section 5.10.1.

Item 5.10.1 b), volume of air sampled, is supplied by the customer on the sampling data sheet. The air volume is not sampled by the laboratory and is not covered by the NVLAP accreditation. Item 5.10.1 e) requires the laboratory to report asbestos structures/cm³ of air, which is calculated using the volume of air sampled. Because these reported results are not covered by NVLAP accreditation, laboratories are required to qualify reported results as stated in NIST Handbook 150, Annex A, Sections (h) and/or (i).

Effective March 1, 2013, a disclaimer shall be added to all airborne asbestos test reports issued under the NVLAP accreditation. That disclaimer shall clearly indicate that results reported in asbestos structures/cm³ of air are not covered by the laboratory's accreditation. The following language is acceptable:

The laboratory is not responsible for data collected by personnel who are not part of the laboratory. Results reported in both structures/cm³ and structures/mm² are dependent on the volume of air sampled and measured by non-laboratory personnel and are not covered by the laboratory's NVLAP accreditation.

Based upon NVLAP's discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the inclusion of a disclaimer on test reports that sampling is not performed under a laboratory's scope of accreditation will not jeopardize the acceptability of those test reports under AHERA. **It is the laboratory's responsibility to discuss regulatory requirements with its customers and ensure that test reports are issued in a manner that meets those requirements.**

Please keep this Lab Bulletin with the Airborne Asbestos Fiber Analysis Program-Specific Handbook (NIST Handbook 150-13) until the handbook is revised, at which time the requirement set forth in this bulletin will be incorporated into the handbook.

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