eurofins | Environment Testing

EnviroNote News

Eurofins | Environment Testing EnviroNote 1121 – July 2022

Newcastle Lab NATA Accredited for Asbestos, Chemistry & Microbiology Testing

Asbestos

We are pleased to announce that our Newcastle laboratory is now proudly NATA accredited for both Microbiology and Chemistry testing. In addition to our long-established mycology testing services, our latest NATA accreditations significantly broaden the capabilities of our Mayfield East laboratory.

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is made up of groups of mineral fibres naturally present in the earth. There are six types of asbestos (chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, actinolite and anthophyllite) from two general categories (amphiboles and serpentines). Known for its strength, durability, and resistance to fire and water, asbestos was used commonly in various construction applications for the greater part of the 20th century. Asbestos is a thermal and acoustic insulator, used to make combustible objects flame retardant. Asbestos fibres are flexible and elastic, long lasting, and can be spun or woven. Buildings constructed prior to 1980 often have flooring, ceilings, and pipes made with asbestos. Asbestos identification can only be made with professional analysis. Demolition and renovation are the primarily ways to disturb components made with asbestos in the home, as it is “friable” (easily crumbled) and agitated into harmful dust.

Sampling & Analysis of Asbestos

Eurofins Environment Testing analyses all layers of wallboard/joint compounds, plasters, and roofing samples as well as air. All testing are conducted in accordance with the NATA Life Sciences - Annex, Asbestos sampling and testing.

Why is Asbestos harmful?

The risk of asbestos depends on the type of product in which it has been incorporated and its state of degradation. Asbestos can be hazardous to human health because microscopic particles are biologically persistent, and can be inhaled. Its exposure is linked to higher rates of cancer and incurable asbestos-related illnesses.

In the form of tiny fibres, asbestos is released into the air and lodges itself in the lungs. Its indestructible nature makes it difficult or impossible to expel. Lethal diseases, such as asbestosis, lung cancer or mesothelioma (pleural cancer) can develop. The most harmful effects of asbestos and all its symptoms on the human body sometimes do not appear for 20 years or more after exposure. Asbestos is one of the leading occupational causes of death.

Learn more about the asbestos National Strategic Plan and additional asbestos information on the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency website.

Eurofins Environment Testing is able to isolate, identify and quantify the three types of asbestos detailed in Australian Standard™ AS4964-2004 method in various types of materials such as cements, vermiculite, insulating materials, as well as slabs floor and ceiling.

Analysis of asbestos fibres in air as per the Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres [NOHSC: 3003 (2005)]

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Microbiology Water Testing

Water is one of the Earth's most valuable natural resources. As such, it's use is governed by significant environmental laws and regulations. This relates not only to drinking water but for the entire water cycle, including; potable waters, surface and ground water, process and waste-water and sewage. Testing for microbial presence and levels in samples from these water sources is often required to comply with local laws and regulations, as well as to verify the robustness of water treatment processes.

Eurofins operates a network of ISO/IEC17025 accredited microbiology testing laboratories that offer a full suite of potable water testing services as well as food testing, including tests for pathogen detection, quality indicator and microbial identification. Additionally, Eurofins can design and execute scientific studies to support product and process development from method comparisons, challenge studies, and validations through stability studies and shelf-life analyses. We want to be your partner for fast, accurate, local, and convenient microbiology testing services.

E.coli

In our microbiology testing laboratories we can analyse microorganisms in such matrices as estuarine waters; fresh waters; industrial waters - treated, recirculating; sewage; trade wastes as well as waters for potable and domestic purposes using AS 4276.3 and AS 4276.5.

Next Steps

If there are concerns about asbestos in a home or business, Eurofins is able to isolate, identify and quantify all types of asbestos in various types of materials including cement, vermiculite, insulation and floor and ceiling slabs. If you are concerned about mould or the microbiological safety of your water then please contact us today.

Science at your service:

- Reliable expertise
- Accurate results
- Transparent process with fast turnaround times
- Nationwide network with unprecedented sample logistics

Our scopes of accreditation are available via the NATA website for microbiology and chemistry (including asbestos).

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