

WJS: Here's my comments.

- 1) The kit can be purchased from any good scientific supply house by simply ordering the various items.
- 2) Both Sipin & SKC are producing these kits. Sipin costs \$98, SKC costs \$95. Neither one will quote delivery — they haven't put them together yet. SKC is including material safety data sheets for all chemicals.
- 3) Dick Kupel of NIOSH has refined the test to remove things that caused interferences. It requires an acetic/sulfuric acid wash step — I don't believe this kit contains the revised test.
- 4) NIOSH has published the method — a copy is being sent to me. They claim the detection limit is down to 1% asbestos.
- 5) I would hate to see this test kit given to someone with training in chemical handling techniques. Note that

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the chemicals include phosphoric & hydrofluoric acid.

6) Note that the 1st page claims 40% false positives while the 2nd states 26% false positives. I believe both are quite high (although the acetic/sulfuric acid wash may be an improvement).

7) As always the usefulness of this test would depend on the application. I can envision several scenarios for intended use - some good, some horrendous.

A) Give test to craftspeople entering customer premises to check for asbestos. Imagine the training problems - not to mention unskilled people working with these chemicals.

B) Give tests to their supervisors - not much better & still a horrendous training program

C) Give test to local or headquarters safety personnel. I can't believe many people could or would successfully be able to handle the procedure. Certainly some could, but

if we have trouble explaining use of sampling pump to some people, this test would be about 100 x worse.

D) Give test to ~~small~~ specially trained personnel. This should work, but once you're limited the number of people trained down to this level you might as well just ask people to collect samples and send them to an analytical lab. Note that all positive samples would have to be subjected to further analysis for fibrous structure anyway.

E) Use at Bell Labs. I think this would be a useful addition to our battery of tests for asbestos.

Chuck