Interoffice Memo

CertainTeed

To	Mail Code	From	Mail Code	Ext.
B. Brocka	283	Mark E. Kennedy M.E. Kennedy	1125/4	7707

Subject	Date
Lab Accreditation Information	10/18/90

cc: R. Bollich - 283

Attached is some information on Laboratory accreditation through the American Industrial Hygiene Association. This is the information that was referenced in the August 1990 IH survey report.

As we discussed during the Kansas City seminar, I am concerned about obtaining accurate and reliable results in our worker exposure plant monitoring program. Becoming accredited would lend more credibility to the overall VCM monitoring program.

Let me know what your thoughts are after you have had a chance to review the information.

AMERICAN
INDUSTRIAL
HYGIENE
ASSOCIATION P O Box 8390 • 345 White Pond Dr. • Akron, OH 44320 • TEL. (216) 873-AIHA (2442) • FAX (216) 873-1642

Enclosed please find the information you requested. The American Industrial Hygiene Association provides two programs for assuring competency in industrial hygiene sampling analysis.

The purpose of the Laboratory Accreditation Program is to establish and maintain the highest possible standard for those laboratories which analyze samples for the purpose of evaluating workplace exposures. Personnel, quality control procedures, equipment, facilities and recordkeeping are evaluated by the Laboratory Accreditation Committee and Site visitors. In addition, laboratory accreditation requires participation in the AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing (PAT) Program. The PAT program provides quality audit samples on a quarterly basis. Acceptable levels of performance must be maintained in order to retain accreditation. The program accredits the industrial hygiene lab located at a specific location.

The purpose of the Asbestos Analysts Registry is to establish and maintain standards for individual counters who analyze samples or materials for the purpose of evaluating exposure to asbestos containing materials. It requires documentation of equipment training and QC procedures. Each counter is also required to participate in the Asbestos Analytical Testing (AAT) Program and submit results quarterly. AAR counters are noted acceptable when there are no more than two outlier results for two successive rounds. THe AAR registers counters who may count samples in-house or at the job site.

For laboratories who would like to only participate in a performance testing program, the AIHA offers two types of round robin testing programs. The PAT Program offers quarterly air samples for metals, asbestos, silica and organic solvents. The Bulk Asbestos Round Robin Testing Program consists of identification of asbestos fibers. Samples are sent quarterly.

Please read over the enclosed material. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nadine Lawriw or Lori Lanza at (216) 873-2442.

CTL000174

PAT Program

The Proficiency Analytical Testing (PAT) Program provides quality audit samples to occupational health laboratories. Although one objective of PAT is to determine the analytical competence of participating occupational health laboratories, the primary objective is to assist the participating laboratories in improving analytical performance.

Sample Kits

Sample kits are mailed quarterly and contain up to 15 filters and 10 charcoal or silica gel tubes. Five filters contain silica; five asbestos; and five combined metals of lead, cadmium, and zinc. The charcoal or silica gel tubes contain one, two, or three organic solvents which are rotated each round and include: benzene; carbon tetrachloride; chloroform; 1,2-dichloroethane; hexane; methylene chloride; methyl chloroform; methyl ethyl ketone; methyl isobutyl ketone; octane; o-xylene; p-dioxane; toluene; trichloroethylene; and tetrachloroethylene.

Lab Requirements

Not all laboratories analyze all contaminants included in the PAT program, but each laboratory is required to analyze and submit results for all PAT samples which are similar to the analytical work load of the laboratory.

Analytical Methods

The analytical methods to be followed are not specified in the Program; the procedure used for PAT samples should be the same procedure used by the laboratory in its normal operations for similar types of samples. Except in instances where analytical problems are found, PAT samples should be rotated among all analysts performing similar analyses in the laboratory. Laboratories have fifteen working days after receipt of samples to mail results.

Results

Results are evaluated, laboratories are screened for those with questionable performance, and each laboratory is notified of its status prior to the next official round of samples. To assist laboratories in making corrections and modifications prior to the next official round, repeat samples are available by contacting AIHA. Details of the statistical procedures used and examples of output are provided upon enrollment in the Program.