

COHLABS TEM OPENS THE FIRST ASBESTOS LABORATORY IN OCEANIA UTILISING THE TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPY.



WHO IS COHLABS TEM?

Cohlabs TEM is a joint-venture between three leading organisations in the field of asbestos and laboratory analysis :

COHLABS – Brisbane based NATA accredited laboratory with more than 60 years combined expertise in the industry.

PROTEC – Surveying and asbestos-removal product experts with vast experience in asbestos management services.

ITGA – International accredited laboratory with more than 25 years of analytical experience in Electron Microscopy analysis.



TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPY FEATURES

Electron microscopy is a powerful tool for the investigation of materials using a very high magnification (X10,000) and high-resolution (0,2nm). The materials are analysed to their elemental composition the results are then compared to already known reference materials. This enables the lab analyst to achieve accurate and precise identification of samples to determine if they are, in-fact asbestos. TEM also features the ability to identify non-commercial asbestos types such as tremolite, actinolite and anthophyllite which cannot be identified by Polarised Light Microscopy (PLM).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT IN THE ASBESTOS INDUSTRY

✓ AVOID FALSE NEGATIVE

TEM is able to detect very fine fibres that cannot be observed using PLM.

TEM can identify the non-commercial asbestos minerals such as tremolite, actinolite and anthophyllite which cannot be identified by PLM due to the wide range of optical properties these minerals exhibit.

Declaring there is no asbestos where there is - this is the worst-case while trying to managing asbestos in-situ. This can be avoided by utilising TEM.

Common asbestos containing materials not observable under PLM include; Vinyl tiles, sealants, mastics & epoxy resins.



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✓ KNOW THE REAL EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Fibres released from ACMs are released in different sizes. Many of these asbestos fibres are thinner than 0.2 μm and therefore are not observable using Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM).

By using TEM for your sample analysis you can avoid under-estimations in exposure:

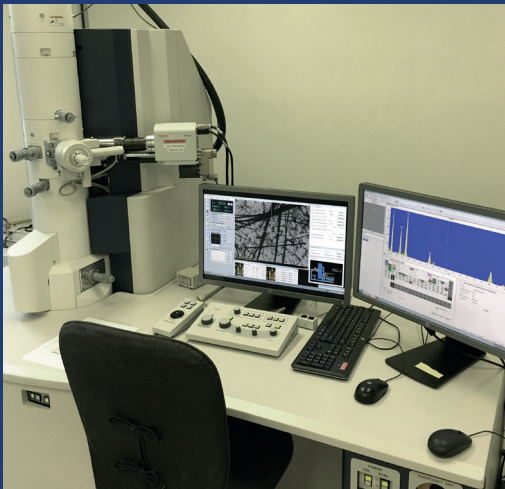
TEM detects asbestos from .01 μm .

In many cases, you're exposed to Thin Asbestos fibres that you cannot detect with the PCM.

✓ AVOID FALSE POSITIVE

Working in environments that contain multiple organic fibres present? TEM can be used to confirm mineral fibres as being non-asbestos allowing the avoidance of unnecessary costs of specialist asbestos remediation where it is not necessary.

TEM distinguishes asbestos fibres from all other fibres to get the right result.



SERVICES

Cohlabs TEM offers fast turnaround time for bulk samples and filter analysis.

We are also answer to specific requests to sample suspect Naturally Occurring Asbestos, Asbestos in soil or swab samples.

Our methodology is based on world class industry leading practises utilised in Europe & the USA

For further information, including pricing, contact us at our Brisbane laboratory.

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