

OHL Asbestos Analysis

The Occupational Health Laboratory accepts air samples, building materials, insulation, pipe wrapping, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, and other materials suspected of containing asbestos for analysis. Our MIOSHA customers include the Construction Safety and Health Division, the General Industry Safety and Health Division, and the Consultation Education and Training Division. Other OHL customers include the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and county health departments.

The OHL has three analysts that have completed the NIOSH 582 (or equivalency) course, which conforms to NIOSH 7400 method protocols in phase contrast microscopy for identification of airborne asbestos fibers.

Bulk samples are analyzed for asbestos and other fibers using polarized light microscopy with central stop dispersion staining techniques. The OHL has two analysts certified in this analysis following a validated in-house method based on US EPA method EPA-600/R-93/116.

Several of our analysts have been trained at the prestigious McCrone Research Institute, a not-for-profit educational institution in Chicago. The institute's founder, Walter C. McCrone, was a pioneer in electron and light microscopy, and may be best known to the general public for his research on the shroud of Turin.

To ensure accurate analysis and LESS staff safety, PLEASE comply with the following
If air samples have been taken, they **must** be shipped separately from bulk samples.
All bulk samples **must** be sent in petri dishes supplied by the Occupational Health Laboratory. Any exceptions **must** be approved by the LESS Program Manager **prior** to sample submission.

When appropriate, sufficiently moisten bulk samples with water to prevent potential release of fibers, but please avoid saturating the sample. Samples containing moisture must be dried prior to analysis, and excessive wetting significantly increases sample preparation time. Samples submitted as "Expedite" (72 hour turnaround) or "Rush" (24 hour turnaround) **must** have prior approval from your supervisor **AND** the LESS Program Manager.

Any sampling pumps sent in for service that may have been contaminated by asbestos or other hazardous materials **must** be double bagged in zipper closure plastic bags and labeled with the possible contaminants to ensure proper handling.

If there are any questions concerning proper sampling technique, please email the LESS Program Manager or call (517) 284-2900.