NVLAP®	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	**ISSUE DATE:** October 13, 1998
	LAB BULLETIN	**NUMBER:** LB-2-1998
SUBJECT: Analysis of Layered Samples in Bulk Asbestos Proficiency Tests		

NVLAP has received many questions regarding the reporting of layered bulk asbestos samples. While it is recognized that current U.S. EPA guidelines (Federal Register Notice dated August 1, 1994) require that each layer be analyzed and reported separately, they differ with the test method requirements found in the U.S. EPA's "Interim Method for the Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Insulation Samples," EPA/600/M4-82-020, 1982.

This bulletin is to clarify the requirements for the reporting of layered samples offered in NVLAP's Bulk Asbestos Proficiency Testing Program. Because NVLAP accredits laboratories to specific test methods, NVLAP is requiring that the procedures in EPA/600/M4-82-020 be followed. That test method states: "When discrete strata are identified, each is treated as a separate material so the fibers are first identified and quantified in that layer only, and then the results for each layer are combined to yield an estimate of asbestos content for the whole sample." Therefore, for the purposes of NVLAP proficiency testing, one result is to be reported for all layered samples, and not one result for each layer.

These guidelines should always be followed during the analysis of layered proficiency testing samples unless specifically instructed to do otherwise in a given round of testing. Any questions that arise during the performance of proficiency testing should be immediately addressed to the point of contact listed in the cover letter.

Laboratories should continue to report results of layered samples to their clients in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and contracts.

Questions or comments concerning this bulletin should be directed to Thomas Davis at 301-975-6499; fax: 301-926-2884; or e-mail: *thomas.davis@nist.gov*.