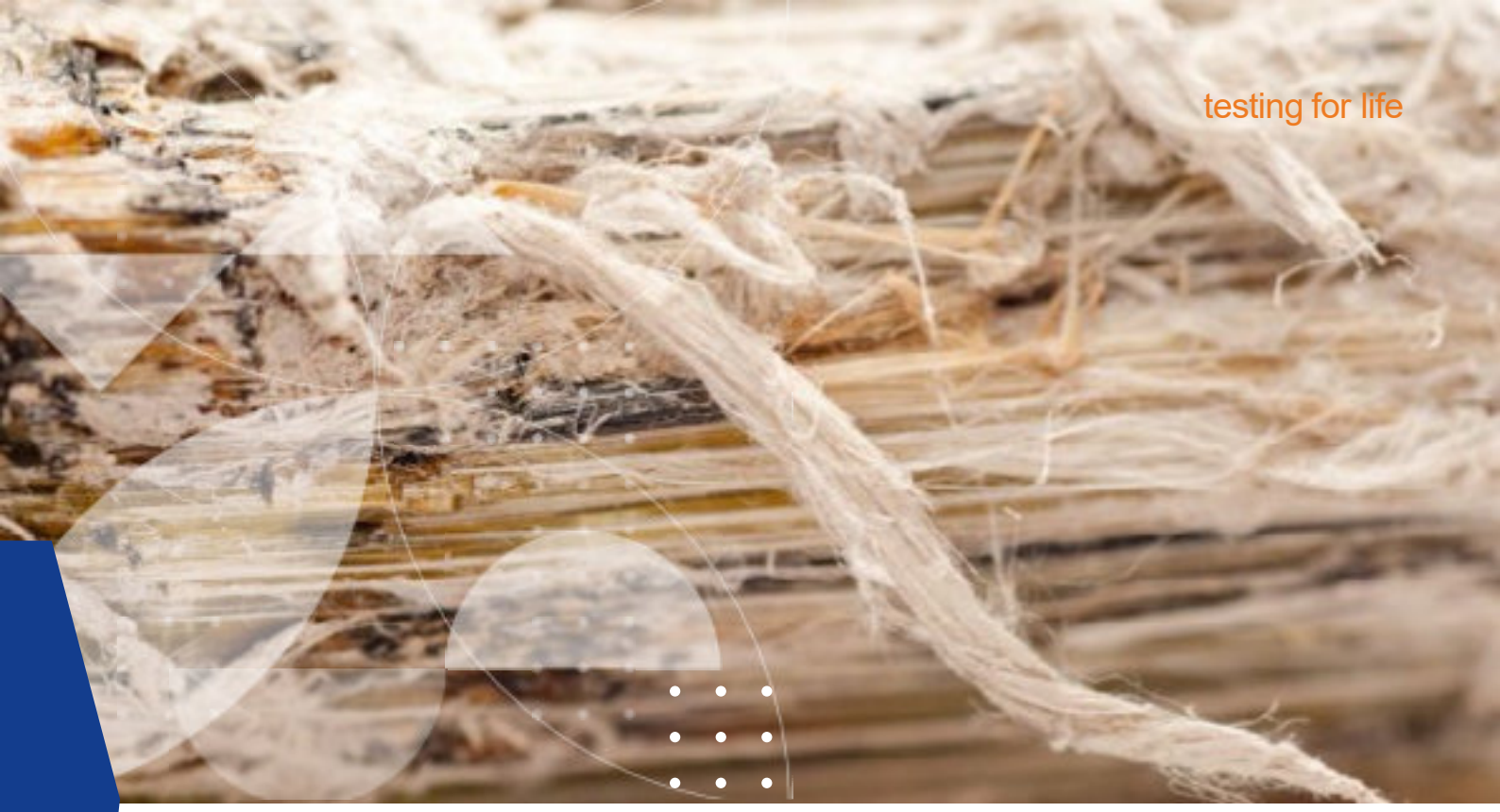

Asbestos

Asbestos is a collective name for natural silicate minerals, which consist of microscopic fibres. Previously, asbestos was mainly used as a building material in more than 3500 applications for its unique properties: it is heat-resistant, wear-resistant, insulating, electrically non-conductive and cheap to process. However, the small fibres can penetrate the body and cause life-threatening diseases, such as asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma. Because of the health risks, the use and processing of asbestos-containing materials has been prohibited since 1993 in the Netherlands.

Legislation

Because asbestos can still be found in many buildings, products, and in the soil, it still poses as a health risk. To limit this, extensive regulations for the inventory (in accordance with SC-540), analyis, and removal of asbestos are in place. The most important standards in the field of asbestos analysis include:

- NEN 2991 'Determination of asbestos concentrations in indoor air and risk assessment in and around buildings, constructions, or objects in which asbestos-containing materials are processed', of which:
  - NEN-EN-ISO 16000-7, NEN-ISO 16000-27, NEN-ISO 14966.
- NEN 5896 'Qualitative analysis of asbestos in materials with polarization microscopy'.
- NEN 5898 'Determination of the asbestos content in soil, water sediment, construction and demolition waste, and granulate'.

Analysis by Eurofins

The Eurofins laboratory is accredited for asbestos analyzes in accordance with NEN 5896 en NEN 5898, NEN-ISO 16000-27 and NEN-ISO 14966. The analyzes are accredited under registration numbers L086 and L376 with the Accreditation Council (RvA).

Depending on the chemical composition, shape, and specific properties, asbestos is classified into different types. However, often reference is made to the color, of which white (chrysotile), brown (amosite), or blue (crocidolite) are the most common. Since asbestos cannot be recognized with the naked eye, further microscopic analysis of asbestos-containing materials is necessary.

Eurofins is accredited an independent laboratory for determining the precence of asbestos by means of light and polarization microscopy (PLM) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Using these methods, the presence of asbestos and the correct type can be determined through its specific characteristics, such as morphology, refractive index, and chemical structure.

In addition to the clear image of the asbestosfibers, the chemical composition of the fibres can be determined using electron microscopy, to provide a clear image of the type used. This is made possible by collecting x-rays, which arise from the interactions between the electron beam of the SEMand the examined matter.

The analysis can be performed in four locations in the Netherlands: Amsterdam, Barendrecht, Deurningen and Sittard.

More information

Samples can be collected at the desired location or at a depot. Eurofins' logistic services can be reached at 0800- 0991180 or logistiek@etbnl.eurofins.com.

For additional information regarding analyses, reporting, rates, delivery times, service and more, please contact the designated contact person or the customer service during office hours.

About Eurofins Environment Testing

Eurofins Environment Testing Netherlands is part of Eurofins Scientific and your partner for environmental testing.

Our goal is to help you achieve your objectives. With efficient and qualitative analysistechniques wesupport your business processes. Our customer service is at your disposal with specialized knowledge and extensive experience. You can make use of our own packaging and logistics service. Our reliable couriers take care of sample transfer on site and transport the samples to the relevant laboratory the same day.

Eurofins Environment Testing Netherlands is committed to protecting the environment. With our products and services, we support the responsible use and minimization of substances harmful to humans and the planet. Examples include hormones, pesticides, dioxins and heavy metals. By reducing the usage of water, raw materials and energy, we contribute to sustainability. Our laboratories have developed special programs to minimize environmental risks, such a safe use of chemicals and waste disposal.

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