



Verification Division
S/833/2010
13 April 2010
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED
FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES**

1. The Conference of the States Parties at its First Session established the conditions under which laboratories may seek designation (C-I/DEC.60, 61, 62, and 65, all dated 22 May 1997), and at its Fifth Session (C-V/6, dated 19 May 2000) mandated the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to take a decision regarding guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples. The Council took this decision at its Twentieth Session (EC-XX/DEC.3, dated 28 June 2000).
2. When designating laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples, and in accordance with C-I/DEC.61 and C-I/DEC.65, the Director-General takes the following into account:
 - (a) whether the laboratory has established a quality system in accordance with the relevant standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2005, ILAC G-13:2007, or equivalent) and has valid accreditation by an internationally recognised accreditation body for the tasks for which it is seeking designation—namely, for the analysis of chemical-warfare agents and related compounds in various types of samples; and
 - (b) whether the laboratory has performed successfully in the OPCW’s proficiency-testing programme.
3. A laboratory must participate in the proficiency-testing programme at least once per calendar year. According to subparagraph 4(d) of the Annex to C-I/DEC.65, a rating of three “A’s”, or two “A’s” and one “B” on a laboratory’s three most recent consecutive tests shall be regarded as constituting a successful performance.
4. If a designated laboratory performs unsuccessfully in a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended but retain designated status, or it may have its designated status withdrawn, according to the guidelines in EC-XX/DEC.3. When this happens, the laboratory, also in accordance with EC-XX/DEC.3, will no longer be selected by the Director-General to receive and analyse authentic samples from the OPCW. However, it may perform other tasks, as set out in C-I/DEC.67 (dated 22 May 1997).



5. Following the completion of the Twenty-Sixth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, the Director-General wishes to inform Member States of the current status of the laboratories that have been designated for the analysis of authentic samples. Eighteen laboratories from 16 Member States are designated; one of these is temporarily suspended.

DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

	Laboratory	State Party
1.	Defence Laboratories Department (DLD)	Belgium
2.	Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD)	China
3.	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS)	China
4.	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland
5.	DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques	France
6.	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection (WIS)	Germany
7.	Vertox Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India
8.	Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India
9.	TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands
10.	Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland
11.	Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
12.	Verification Laboratory, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore*
13.	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas Fábrica Nacional "La Marañosa"	Spain
14.	Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), CBRN Defence and Security Division	Sweden
15.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland
16.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
17.	Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America
18.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)	United States of America

6. The performance ratings of these laboratories are annexed hereto.

Annex:

Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in Official Proficiency Tests

* An asterisk (*) next to the name of the State Party means that the laboratory has been temporarily suspended, having performed unsuccessfully in a proficiency test, and that it will not be considered for the receipt of samples taken for off-site analysis until it again meets the criterion stated in subparagraph 2(b) above.

Annex

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	Member State	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)	22nd (2007)	23rd (2008)	24th (2008)	25th (2009)	26th (2009)
Defence Laboratories Department (DLD)	Belgium	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	A	–	–	A
Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD)	China	–	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	A
Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS)	China	–	–	–	B	A	A	–	A	–	–	A
Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A
DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques	France	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	A	–
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC protection (WIS)	Germany	–	A	–	C	–	B	A	A	–	A	–
Vertex Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	–	A	–	A
Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India	A	D	A	C	F	A	A	B	–	–	B
TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands	B	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	A	–	A
Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification, Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland	–	–	A	–	C	–	A	–	A	–	A
Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	–	A	–	–	B	–	A	–	A	–	A
Verification Laboratory DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	–	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	F [†]
Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fábrica Nacional “La Marañosa”	Spain	A	–	A	–	C	C	A	A	A	–	A
Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), CBRN Defence and Security Division	Sweden	A	–	B	A	–	–	A	–	A	–	A
Spiez Laboratory Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	–	–	A	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–

Laboratory	Member State	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)	22nd (2007)	23rd (2008)	24th (2008)	25th (2009)	26th (2009)
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	–	A	–	A
Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America	–	A [#]	A	C	A	A	–	A	–	A	–
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)	United States of America	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	–	A	–	A

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[#] This score is a result of the satisfactory assistance provided by the laboratory during the proficiency test, but cannot be used to evaluate whether the laboratory can be considered for designation, since a score from previous assistance within the prior three tests by this laboratory was counted for designation (see paragraph 5(c) of C-I/DEC.65).

^{F†} indicates that the laboratory did not meet all performance criteria for successful performance in the test and is thus temporarily suspended (see paragraph 25.4 of QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01, dated 18 September 2009).