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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTIETH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the States Parties of the results of the Fiftieth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from October 2021 to March 2022. The OPCW Laboratory is accredited by the Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA), the Netherlands, to conduct proficiency testing in compliance with the criteria laid down in International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission standard ISO/IEC 17043. The test was conducted according to the following quality management system documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 19 March 2021));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 19 March 2021));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 4, Revision 0, dated 24 March 2021)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 3, Revision 1, dated 24 March 2021)).
2. In order to retain their designation, designated laboratories must demonstrate once per calendar year that they have maintained their capabilities in a proficiency test organised by the Secretariat, unless the additional guidelines in decision C-20/DEC.4 (dated 2 December 2015) are applicable.
3. The OPCW Laboratory prepared the test samples and DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique, France, evaluated the results of the Fiftieth Proficiency Test.
4. Twenty-two laboratories from 18 States Parties, including the assisting laboratory, were nominated for participation in the test. One laboratory opted to participate in this test on a trial basis.
5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at an online meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 15 February 2022. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.



6. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 24 March 2022.
7. The principal results of the Fiftieth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All regular test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period.
 - (b) Ten regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
 - (c) Three regular participants identified and reported five out of the six spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
 - (d) One regular participant identified and reported four out of the six spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
 - (e) Three regular participants identified and reported fewer than half of the spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
 - (f) Three regular participants reported false positive chemicals and failed the test.
 - (g) No score was assigned to the trial participant.
 - (h) Four non-scoring chemicals were reported.
 - (i) Four false positive chemicals were reported.
 - (j) The evaluating laboratory submitted their report and were awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
 - (k) There are eleven As, three Bs, one C, three Ds, and three Fs in the test score for the 21 regular participants and the assisting laboratory.
8. The final results for all of the laboratories participating in the test are presented in the table in the Annex hereto.
9. The participating laboratories are reminded that if they have made any errors or reported false positives or false negatives (arising from a failure to find a spiking chemical or to provide sufficient supporting data for a chemical that is found), they should take immediate remedial action. Before participating in the next test, each such laboratory is required to submit a detailed follow-up report to the Secretariat stating the cause of the problem and any remedial action it has taken. Any such laboratory failing to submit the required report, including details of the remedial action it has taken, will not be permitted to participate in the next proficiency test.

Annex: Final Results of the Fiftieth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

FINAL RESULTS OF THE FIFTIETH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals ¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Algeria Institut National de Criminologie et de Criminologie de la Gendarmerie Nationale (08)	5	2	D	Spiking chemicals A, D, E, and F were not reported.
Brazil Chemical Analysis Laboratory of the Brazilian Navy Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Radiological Defense Centre (18)	6	4	F	Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemicals C and F. False positive chemical L was reported.
China Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (20)	6	6	A	Non-scoring chemical G was reported.
France DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique	-	-	A	Evaluation assistance
India Central Excise & Customs Laboratory (14)	-	-	#	Trial participant
India Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (10)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical D was not reported. Non-scoring chemicals H and J were reported.

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 501:	(A)	1,3-Bis(vinylthio)propane
Sample 502:	(B)	Bis(2-chloroethyl)sulfide
Sample 502:	(C)	Diethyl propylphosphonate
Sample 505:	(D)	1,3-Bis(2-hydroxyethylsulfonyl) propane
Sample 506:	(E)	Ethylphosphonic acid
Sample 506:	(F)	Methyl ethylphosphonate

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
India VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment (12)	6	6	A	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (17)	6	6	A	-
Japan Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (16)	4	4	C	Spiking chemicals A and D were not reported. Non-scoring chemical K was reported.
Malaysia Department of Chemistry (23)	3	1	D	Spiking chemicals A, D, and E were not reported. Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemicals B and C.
Malaysia Science & Technology Research Institute for Defence (STRIDE) (25)	2	0	F	Spiking chemicals A, D, E and F were not reported. Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemicals B and C. False positive chemical N was reported.
Norway Laboratory for Identification of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) (19)	6	6	A	-
Pakistan Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science Technology Organisation, DESTO Labs Complex (22)	6	6	A	Non-scoring chemical G was reported with insufficient data.
Poland Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre of Polish Armed Forces (21)	6	5	F	Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemical D. False positive chemicals I and M were reported.

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Republic of Korea CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command (24)	6	5	B	Insufficient sample information for spiking chemical A.
Russian Federation Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre (09)	6	6	A	Non-scoring chemical G was reported.
Russian Federation Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology" (06)	6	6	A	Non-scoring chemical G was reported.
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories (03)	2	2	D	Spiking chemicals A, D, E, and F were not reported.
Spain Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa (13)	6	6	A	-
Switzerland Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment (04)	6	5	B	Inconsistent sample information for spiking chemical F.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down (07)	6	6	A	-
United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (15)	6	6	A	Non-scoring chemical G was reported.