

DECISION**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DETERMINING THE FREQUENCY OF SYSTEMATIC ON-SITE INSPECTIONS OF STORAGE FACILITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART IV (A), PARAGRAPH 44, OF THE VERIFICATION ANNEX (PARIS RESOLUTION, SUBPARAGRAPH 12(L))****The Conference**

Recalling that the Commission in its PC-VII/8, paragraph 6.12, **adopted** the criteria for the determination of the frequency of inspections developed by the Expert Group on Chemical Weapons Storage Facilities and outlined in paragraph 9 of the Annex to PC-V/B/WP.13, and in Appendix B to the same Report,

Bearing in mind that the Commission recommended in paragraph 42.2 of its Final Report that the Conference adopt the above mentioned recommendations,

Hereby:

1. **Adopts** the criteria for the determination of the frequency of systematic on-site inspections of chemical weapons storage facilities, annexed hereto.

Annex

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Annex

Once facility declarations have been received by the OPCW, a determination should be made as to which facilities should be inspected first. Once all initial inspections are complete and facility agreements finalised, the OPCW should then decide on the frequency of inspection of each facility. In determining the frequency of inspections at a particular CW storage facility, due regard should be given to any Executive Council decision to avoid duplication of adequate bilateral or multilateral verification regimes already applied to the facility. Possible criteria that could be used by the Technical Secretariat to determine the priority and frequency of inspection of a CW storage facility are at Annex B. These criteria are purposely qualitative and do not represent an exhaustive listing. The Conference wished to include these criteria which the Technical Secretariat may, on receipt of declarations and inspection reports, make more quantitative in nature.¹

¹ Contained in PC-V/B/WP.13, Annex, paragraph 9.

**POSSIBLE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION
 OF FREQUENCY OF² INSPECTIONS**

The criteria below could be considered when determining the frequency of inspection for each facility.

CRITERIA³	HIGHER FREQUENCY	LOWER FREQUENCY
Quantity of chemicals defined as CW ⁴	Larger quantity	Lower quantity
Readiness of CW for use	a. CW is weaponized b. Binary components are collocated c. CW can be used immediately	a. CW is not weaponized b. Binary components are in separate CW storage facilities that are not in close proximity to each other ⁵ c. CW can be used only after substantial preparation or modification
Quantity of unfilled munitions, sub-munitions, devices or equipment	Larger quantity	Lower quantity
Results of previous inspections	Inconsistencies with requirements of the Convention or unresolved ambiguities reported	No substantial inconsistencies or unresolved ambiguities reported

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² Contained in PC-V/B/WP.13, Annex, Appendix B.

³ The expressions under 'higher frequency' and 'lower frequency' for each of the possible criteria would include a variety of situations not expressed in this table. They should be interpreted as the potential higher and lower limits of a continuum.

⁴ The terms 'larger quantity' and 'lower quantity' reflect the understanding of the Group that as of the time of writing, the potential quantities of chemicals in any possible CW storage facility is unknown. Thus the quantities are relative. Once storage facilities have been declared and verified, the Technical Secretariat may wish to assign more quantitative criteria, but at present they should remain relative only.

⁵ 'Close proximity' may be State Party dependent. It may be affected by transportation availability, ease of dispensing agent from containers, degree of weaponization, etc.