



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

Verification Division
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF
THE TWENTY-THIRD OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Twenty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from 11 April 2008 to 3 July 2008. The test was conducted in accordance with the following set of quality documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01, dated 10 March 2008);
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Test Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02, dated 10 March 2008); and
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03, dated 10 March 2008).
2. Designated laboratories must, in order to retain their designation, demonstrate once per calendar year that they have maintained their capabilities in a proficiency test organised by the Secretariat. Since this test was the first to use a new proficiency test methodology, the laboratories could participate in this test as either a regular participant or trial participant, or support the Secretariat in the preparation of the test samples or in the evaluation of the test results.
3. Two laboratories assisted the Secretariat in conducting this test: Fábrica Nacional “La Marañosa”, Madrid, Spain, which prepared the test samples, and Defence Laboratories Department (DLD), Vilvoorde (Peutie), Belgium, which evaluated the test results.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between the Secretariat staff and the test participants on 3 July 2008. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results, and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted the performance evaluation.



5. Laboratories 03, 04, 05, 07 and 08 submitted their valid comments, and based upon these, Defence Laboratories Department re-evaluated the preliminary results. The Secretariat agreed with the results of the re-evaluation, which led to no change in the preliminary scores for Laboratories 03, 04, 05, and 08. The score of Laboratory 07 changed from C to B. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 21 August 2008.
6. The principal results of the Twenty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) Twenty-one laboratories from 19 Member States were nominated to participate in this proficiency test, including the two assisting laboratories.
 - (b) Fourteen laboratories from 14 Member States were nominated as regular participants. Seven laboratories from 5 Member States were nominated as trial participants.
 - (c) From the nominated laboratories, one regular participating laboratory and one trial participating laboratory withdrew from the test before the sample dispatch date, which was accepted by the OPCW Laboratory without any penalties (see paragraph 10 of QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01).
 - (d) All the thirteen regular participating laboratories met the adopted criteria for submission, timeliness, and reporting and qualified for scoring in the test.
 - (e) One of the thirteen laboratories reported two chemicals that were categorised as false positive chemicals and consequently failed the test.
 - (f) Six of the thirteen laboratories reported a total of six non-scoring chemicals.
 - (g) Six of the thirteen laboratories identified all of the deliberately introduced (spiked) chemicals used for scoring and reported them with sufficient analytical data.
 - (h) The laboratories that assisted the Secretariat in preparing the test samples and in evaluating the results were awarded the maximum performance rating of "A".
7. The final results for all the 13 regular participating laboratories are presented in the table annexed hereto.
8. 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 to the Secretariat a full report 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 Twenty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

**FINAL RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments¹
Belgium Defence Laboratories Department (DLD) (Evaluating laboratory)	-	-	A	Evaluation of results
China Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Institute of Pharmacology & Toxicology (11)	7	7	A	-
Denmark Ministry of Defence, Emergency Management Agency (08)	6	5	C	Spiking chemical F not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemical B
Finland Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) (01)	7	7	A	-
Germany Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection (WIS) (02)	7	7	A	-

¹ The spiking chemicals were as follows:

OW: (A) Diethyl phosphate; (B) Bis(2-methoxy-1-methylethyl) propylphosphonate;
OX: (C) Dimethyl methylphosphonate; (D) Diethyl methylphosphonate;
LZ: (E) Bis (2-methoxy-1-methylethyl) ethylphosphonate;
LW: (F) Pinacolyl alcohol; (G) Pinacolyl methylphosphonic acid

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments¹
India Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Analytical Chemistry Division, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (04)	7	6	B	Insufficient data for reported spiking chemical F
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (07)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical F not reported
Korea Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defence Development (10)	7	7	A	-
Malaysia Department of Chemistry, Malaysia Ministry of Science (03)	4	2	D	Spiking chemicals B, E and F not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals C and D
Romania Chemical Analysis and Testing Laboratory, NBC and Ecology Defence Scientific Research Centre (13)	7	0	D	Insufficient data for all seven reported spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, E, F and G
Slovakia Reference Chemical Laboratory Zemianske Kostol'any (09)	2	0	D	Spiking chemicals A, B, E,F and G not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals C and D

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments¹
Spain Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fábrica Nacional la Marañosa (Sample preparation laboratory)	-	-	A	Sample preparation
Switzerland Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment (06)	7	7	A	-
Turkey The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Bursa Test and Analysis Laboratory (12)	2	0	F	Spiking chemicals B, D, E, F and G not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals A and C; false positive chemicals reported
United States of America Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center (05)	7	7	A	-