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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED FOR ANALYSIS
OF AUTHENTIC ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its First Session established the conditions under which laboratories may seek designation (C-I/DEC.60, C-I/DEC.61, C-I/DEC.62, and C-I/DEC.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). Additional guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples were adopted by the Conference at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.4, dated 2 December 2015).
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 standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2005 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 proficiency testing programme of the OPCW.
3. A laboratory must participate in the proficiency testing programme at least once per calendar year unless the additional guidelines in C-20/DEC.4 are applicable. According to subparagraph 4(d) of the Annex to C-I/DEC.65, a rating of three “As”, or two “As” and one “B”, on the three most recent consecutive tests of a laboratory 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a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended, but retain designated status, or it may have its designated status withdrawn, according to the guidelines in EC-XX/DEC.3.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 Forty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test, the Director-General wishes to inform Member States of the current status of the laboratories designated for the analysis of authentic environmental samples. Twenty laboratories from 16 Member States are designated; one of these is temporarily suspended. The performance ratings of these laboratories are annexed hereto.

DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

	Laboratory	State Party
1.	Defence Laboratories Department	Belgium
2.	The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence	China
3.	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	China
4.	VERIFIN, Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention	Finland
5.	DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques	France
6.	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection	Germany
7.	Vertex Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India
8.	Defense Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
9.	TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands
10.	Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea
11.	Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense Research Institute	Republic of Korea
12.	Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
13.	Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology"	Russian Federation
14.	Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore
15.	LAVEMA (Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain
16.	FOI, CBRN Defence and Security, Swedish Defence Research Agency	Sweden
17.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland
18.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
19.	Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America
20.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America

Annex: Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in Official Proficiency Tests

Annex

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	Member State	36th (2014)	37th (2015)	38th (2015)	39th (2016)	40th (2016)	41st (2017)
Defence Laboratories Department	Belgium	A	-	A	-	B	-
The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence	China	A	-	A	-	A	-
Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	China	B	-	A	-	A	-
VERIFIN, Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention	Finland	-	F	A	A	A	-
DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques	France	A	-	A	-	A	-
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC protection	Germany	A	A	-	-	A	-
Vertox Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India	F†	A	A	A	-	A
Defense Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	-	-	B	A	-	A
TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands	A	A	-	-	A	-
Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea	A	-	A	-	A	-
Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense Research Institute	Republic of Korea	-	D	B	A	-	B
Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control, Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	A	-	A	-	A	-

† F† denotes failure due to a reporting error (see §8.3 of QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04, Issue 1, Revision 4, dated 8 October 2014).

Laboratory	Member State	36th (2014)	37th (2015)	38th (2015)	39th (2016)	40th (2016)	41st (2017)
Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology"	Russian Federation	A	-	A	-	A	-
Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	A	-	A	-	A ¹	A
LAVEMA (Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain	-	-	A	A	A	A
FOI, CBRN Defence and Security, Swedish Defence Research Agency	Sweden	A	B	-	-	A	-
Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	-	A	-	A	-	-
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	-	A	-	A	-
Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America	-	B	-	A	-	A
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America	A	-	A	-	A	-

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¹ Laboratory was not a test participant but was awarded an "A" grade based on the criteria in decision C-20/DEC.4.