



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Forty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from April to August 2018. 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 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 1, dated 18 April 2017));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 1, dated 18 April 2017));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 7 April 2017)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 2, Revision 4, dated 20 April 2018)).
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 the Defence Chemical Research Laboratory, Iran (Islamic Republic of), evaluated the results of the Forty-Third Proficiency Test.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 19 June 2018. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.
5. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 26 July 2018.



6. The principal results of the Forty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period;
 - (b) Two participants identified and reported all of the spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiked chemicals;
 - (c) Three participants identified and reported 5 out of the 6 spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the reported chemicals;
 - (d) Four false positive chemicals were reported;
 - (e) Two non-scoring chemicals were reported;
 - (f) The evaluating laboratories submitted their report and are awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”; and
 - (g) There are three As, three Bs, one C and two Fs in the test score for the eight regular participants and the evaluating assisting laboratory.
7. The final results for all of the laboratories participating in the test 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 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 Forty-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

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

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Australia Defence Science and Technology Group (15)	4	4	F	Spiking chemicals B-2 and F-1 were not reported; A non-scoring chemical E-2 was reported; Two false positive chemicals A-3 and A-4 were reported.
Brazil CTEx, Laboratório de Análises Químicas (12)	5	4	C	Spiking chemical F-1 was not reported; Insufficient data reported for spiking chemical B-2.
India Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Vertox Laboratory (10)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical B-2 was not reported.

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 431:	(A-1)	Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)sulfide
Sample 432:	(B-1)	1,4-Oxathiane
Sample 432:	(B-2)	1,2-Bis(2-hydroxyethylthio)ethane-d4
Sample 435:	(E-1)	Dicyclohexyl methylphosphonate
Sample 436:	(F-1)	Pinacolyl alcohol
Sample 436:	(F-2)	Pinacolyl ethylphosphonic acid

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (Evaluating Lab)	-	-	A	-
Malaysia Department of Chemistry Malaysia (20)	4	2	F	Spiking chemicals B-2 and F-1 were not reported; Insufficient data reported for A-1 and F-2; Two false positive chemicals A-2 and B-3 were reported.
Norway FFI, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Protection Division (01)	6	6	A	-
Republic of Korea Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Defense Research Institute (06)	6	5	B	Insufficient data reported for spiking chemical F-2; A non-scoring chemical B-4 was reported.
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, a division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd. (04)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical B-2 was not reported.

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
United States of America Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center (18)	6	6	A	-