



S/1892/2020
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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Forty-Seventh Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from April to August 2020. 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 2, dated 11 March 2019));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 2, dated 11 March 2019));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 3, Revision 4, dated 11 March 2019)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 3, Revision 0, dated 11 March 2019)).
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 Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Sweden, prepared the test samples and the Forensic Analytical Laboratory, Chemical Biological Center (CBC), Combat Capabilities Development Command, the United States of America, evaluated the results of the Forty-Seventh Proficiency Test.
4. Eleven laboratories from 11 Member States, including the two assisting laboratories, were nominated for participation in the test. Four of the nominated laboratories withdrew from the test prior to sample dispatch due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. One laboratory withdrew from participation due to problems with sample delivery. Thus, there were four regular participants and two assisting laboratories in the test.



5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at online meetings between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 14 July 2020. 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 12 August 2020.
7. The principal results of the Forty-Seventh Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period.
 - (b) Three regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
 - (c) One participant identified and reported four out of the five spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the reported chemicals.
 - (d) Two false positive chemicals and two non-scoring chemicals were reported.
 - (e) The sample preparation and the evaluating laboratories submitted their report and are awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
 - (f) There are four As and two Fs in the test score for the four regular participants and the two assisting laboratories.
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 Forty-Seventh Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

FINAL RESULTS OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH OFFICIAL
OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

| Participant Laboratory Code | No. of Spiking Chemicals ¹ Reported | No. of Chemicals Scored | Rating | Comments |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------|---|
| Japan Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (11) | 4 | 4 | F | A false positive chemical G was reported. Spiking chemical C was not reported. Two non-scoring chemicals F and I were reported. |
| Republic of Korea CBRN Research Center, ROK CBRN Command (7) | 5 | 5 | F | A false positive chemical H was reported. |
| Romania Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory (1) | 5 | 5 | A | A non-scoring chemical I was reported. |
| Sweden Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) | - | - | A | Sample preparation assistance |
| Turkey Chemical Warfare Agents Identification & Verification Laboratory, General Directorate of Turkey, Department of Consumer Safety & Public Health Laboratories (13) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| United States of America Forensic Analytical Laboratory, Chemical Biological Center (CBC), Combat Capabilities Development Command | - | - | A | Evaluation assistance |

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

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|--------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Sample L471: | (A) | O,O-Diethyl methylphosphonate |
| Sample L472: | (B) | O-Ethyl O-octyl ethylphosphonate |
| Sample L472: | (C) | O-Decyl ethylphosphonic acid |
| Sample L472: | (D) | Pinacolyl alcohol |
| Sample W476: | (E) | O,O-Diethyl methylphosphonate |