



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Forty-Eighth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from October 2020 to March 2021. 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 OPCW Laboratory prepared the test samples and the Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences, China, evaluated the results of the Forty-Eighth Proficiency Test.
4. Twenty-four laboratories from 19 Member States, including the assisting laboratory, were nominated for participation in the test. One laboratory opted to participate in this test on a trial basis, and one of the nominated laboratories withdrew from the test after the sample dispatch.



5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at an online meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 22 February 2021. 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 15 March 2021.
7. The principal results of the Forty-Eighth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period.
 - (b) Eighteen regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
 - (c) One regular participant identified and reported all spiking chemicals; however not all of its analytical data were accepted.
 - (d) Two regular participants reported five out of the six spiking chemicals.
 - (e) No score was assigned to the trial participant.
 - (f) One false positive chemical and three non-scoring chemicals were reported.
 - (g) The evaluating laboratory submitted their report and was awarded the maximum performance rating of "A".
 - (h) There are nineteen As, two Bs, and one C in the test score for the 21 regular participants and the assisting laboratory.
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-Eighth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

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

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Algeria Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie de la Gendarmerie Nationale (14)			#	Trial participant
Australia Defence Science and Technology Group (01)	6	6	A	-
Brazil Centro Tecnológico do Exército, CTEEx (18)	6	6	A	-
Brazil Chemical Analysis Laboratory of the Brazilian Navy Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Radiological Defense Centre (02)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical B was not reported; two non-scoring chemicals G and H were reported.
China Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	-	-	A	Evaluation assistance
China Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (09)	6	6	A	-
France DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques (04)	6	6	A	A non-scoring chemical I was reported.

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 481:	(A)	3,3-Dimethylbutan-2-ol
Sample 481:	(B)	Ethylphosphonic acid
Sample 483:	(C)	Methyldiethanolamine
Sample 483:	(D)	Dipropyl methylphosphonate
Sample 484:	(E)	O,O-Diethyl methylphosphonothioate
Sample 485:	(F)	Dicyclohexyl methylphosphonate

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
India Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins (19)	6	6	A	-
India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (06)	6	3	C	Insufficient data for spiking chemicals A, B, and C.
India VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment (29)	6	6	A	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (20)	6	6	A	-
Japan Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (10)	6	6	A	-
Malaysia Department of Chemistry Malaysia (24)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical C was not reported.
Norway Laboratory for Identification of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) (11)	6	6	A	-
Pakistan Analytical Lab, Defense Science Technology Organisation, DESTO Labs Complex (25)	6	6	A	-
Poland Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre of Polish Armed Forces (22)	6	6	A	-
Republic of Korea CBRN Research Center, ROK CBRN Command (16)	6	6	A	-

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking Chemicals¹ Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Romania Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory (05)	6	6	A	-
Russian Federation Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre (12)	6	6	A	-
Russian Federation Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology (30)	6	6	A	-
Spain LAVEMA (Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas), INTA, Campus La Marañosa (27)	6	6	A	-
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories a division of Armscor SOC Ltd. (21)	6	6	A	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	-	-	-	Withdrew from test
United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (17)	6	6	A	-