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### NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

#### Evaluation of the Results of the Forty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Forty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from April to August 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 3, dated 19 March 2021));
  - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 19 March 2021));
  - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 4, Revision 0, dated 24 March 2021)); and
  - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 3, Revision 1, dated 24 March 2021)).
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 Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore, prepared the test samples and the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), Finland, evaluated the results of the Forty-Ninth Proficiency Test.
4. Fifteen laboratories from 13 Member States, including the assisting laboratories, 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 before the sample dispatch.



5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at an online meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 29 June 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 July 2021.
7. The principal results of the Forty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
  - (a) Ten regular 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) Three regular participants identified and reported five out of the six spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
  - (d) One regular participant identified and reported four out of the six spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
  - (e) Three regular participants identified and reported fewer than half of the spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
  - (f) One regular participant did not submit a report and failed the test.
  - (g) No score was assigned to the trial participant.
  - (h) Three non-scoring chemicals were reported.
  - (i) The sample preparation and the evaluating laboratories submitted their report and were awarded the maximum performance rating of "A".
  - (j) There are five As, three Bs, one C, three Ds, and one F in the test score for the 11 regular participants and the 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-NINTH OFFICIAL  
OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals<sup>1</sup> Reported</b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Algeria</b> Institut National de Criminalistique et de Criminologie de la Gendarmerie Nationale (06)	-	-	-	Trial participant
<b>Australia</b> Defence Science and Technology Group (19)	6	6	A	-
<b>Brazil</b> Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx) (18)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical E was not reported; three non- scoring chemicals were reported.
<b>Finland</b> Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	-	-	A	Evaluation assistance
<b>Hungary</b> Hungarian Defence Forces Medical Centre, Defence Health Directorate, Scientific Research Laboratory Institute, Toxicology Laboratory (05)	2	2	D	Spiking chemicals A, D, E, and F were not reported.
<b>India</b> Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (11)	5	5	B	Spiking chemical A was not reported.

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 492:	(A)	2-(N,N-Dimethylamino)ethanesulfonic acid
Sample 493:	(B)	Methylphosphonic acid
Sample 494:	(C)	O,O-Dimethyl methylphosphonothionate
Sample 495:	(D)	2-Methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphospholane-2-sulfide
Sample 495:	(E)	Bis[2-(N,N-diisopropylamino)ethyl]ether
Sample 495:	(F)	Bis(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)disulfide

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals<sup>1</sup> Reported</b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>India</b> Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (17)	-	-	<b>F</b>	No report submitted.
<b>Japan</b> Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (03)	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>B</b>	Spiking chemical B was not reported; one non-scoring chemical was reported.
<b>Malaysia</b> Department of Chemistry Malaysia (14)	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>D</b>	Spiking chemicals A, E and F were not reported; insufficient data for the reported spiking chemical B.
<b>Poland</b> Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre of Polish Armed Forces (16)	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>D</b>	Insufficient data for the reported spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, E and F; two non-scoring chemicals were reported.
<b>Romania</b> Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory (01)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>A</b>	-
<b>Singapore</b> Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	-	-	<b>A</b>	Sample preparation assistance
<b>Turkey</b> Chemical Warfare Agents Identification and Verification Laboratory, National Public Health Reference Laboratory (10)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>C</b>	Spiking chemicals B and E were not reported; one non-scoring chemical was reported.

<b>Participant Laboratory Code</b>	<b>No. of Spiking Chemicals<sup>1</sup> Reported</b>	<b>No. of Chemicals Scored</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>United States of America</b> Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), Chemical Biological Center (CBC), Forensic Analytical Laboratory (12)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>A</b>	-