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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED FOR THE 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 (CI/DEC.60, CI/DEC.61, CI/DEC.62, and CI/DEC.65, all dated 22 May 1997), and at its Fifth Session (CV/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, C-I/DEC.65, and EC-XX/DEC.3, the Director-General takes the following into account:
 - (a) whether the laboratory has established a quality system in accordance with the standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017 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;
 - (b) whether the laboratory has participated in at least three out of the last five official OPCW proficiency tests; and
 - (c) whether the laboratory has performed successfully in its last three consecutive official OPCW proficiency tests.
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 1(b) of the Annex to EC-XX/DEC.3, 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a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended, but retain designated status, or it may have its designated status withdrawn, according to the guidelines in EC-XX/DEC.3.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 Fifty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test, the Director-General wishes to inform States Parties of the current status of the laboratories designated for the analysis of authentic environmental samples. Twenty-five laboratories from 21 States Parties are designated. The performance ratings of these laboratories are annexed hereto.

DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

	Laboratory	State Party
1.	Defence Science and Technology Group	Australia
2.	Defensielaboratoria - Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD)	Belgium
3.	Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx)	Brazil
4.	Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence	China
5.	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	China
6.	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland
7.	DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique	France
8.	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection	Germany
9.	VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Establishment	India
10.	Defense Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
11.	TNO Defence, Safety and Security	Netherlands
12.	Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)	Norway
13.	Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science and Technology Organization	Pakistan
14.	Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea
15.	CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command	Republic of Korea
16.	Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory	Romania
17.	Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
18.	Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology"	Russian Federation
19.	Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore
20.	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain
21.	Swedish Defence Research Agency, FOI	Sweden
22.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland
23.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

	Laboratory	State Party
24.	DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Laboratory	United States of America
25.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America

Annex: Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in Official Proficiency Tests

Annex 1

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	State Party	45 th (2019)	46 th (2019)	47 th (2020)	48 th (2020)	49 th (2021)	50 th (2021)	51 st (2022)
Defence Science and Technology Group	Australia	B	A	-	A	A	-	A
Défenselaboratoria - Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD)	Belgium	-	A ¹	-	A ¹	-	A ¹	A
Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx)	Brazil	A	-	-	A	B	-	-
Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence	China	-	A	-	A	-	A	-
Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	China	-	A	-	A	A ¹	-	-
Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland	-	A ¹	-	A ¹	A	-	A ¹
DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique	France	-	B	-	A	-	A	-
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection	Germany	A	-	A ¹	-	-	A ¹	A ¹
VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Establishment	India	-	A	-	A	-	A	-
Defence Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	-	A	-	A	-	A	-
TNO Defence, Safety and Security	Netherlands	-	A	-	A ¹	A ¹	-	-
Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)	Norway	-	A	-	A	-	A	-
Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science and Technology Organization	Pakistan	-	B	-	A	-	A	-
Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea	-	A	-	A ¹	-	A ¹	-

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

Laboratory	State Party	45 th (2019)	46 th (2019)	47 th (2020)	48 th (2020)	49 th (2021)	50 th (2021)	51 st (2022)
CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command	Republic of Korea	B	-	F	A	-	B	A
Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory	Romania	-	B	A	A	A	-	-
Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	A	B	-	A	-	A	-
Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology"	Russian Federation	-	B	-	A	-	A	-
Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	B	-	A ¹	-	A	-	-
Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain	A	-	-	A	-	A	A
Swedish Defence Research Agency, FOI	Sweden	A	-	A	-	A ¹	-	A ¹
Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	-	A ¹	A ¹	-	-	B	A
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	A	-	- ²	-	A	-
DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Laboratory	United States of America	A	-	A	-	A	-	A
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America	-	A	-	A	-	A	-

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² Laboratory requested a withdrawal from the test without penalty after receiving samples. Withdrawal was granted by the OPCW. The laboratory remains designated.