



S/2312/2024
9 August 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED FOR THE ANALYSIS OF
AUTHENTIC ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

1. The Conference of the States Parties (the Conference) at its First Session established the conditions under which laboratories may seek designation (C-I/DEC.60, C-I/DEC.61, C-I/DEC.62, and C-I/DEC.65, all dated 22 May 1997), and at its Fifth Session (C-V/6, dated 19 May 2000) mandated the Executive Council (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 into account whether the laboratory has:
 - (a) 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) participated in at least three out of the last five Official OPCW proficiency Tests; and
 - (c) 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a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended, but retain designated status, or it may have its designated status withdrawn, according to the guidelines in EC-XX/DEC.3.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-Fifth 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. Thirty laboratories from 25 States Parties are designated, of which one laboratory is temporarily suspended. The list of these laboratories appears in the table below. The performance ratings of these laboratories can be found in the Annex hereto.

OPCW DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

	Laboratory	State Party
1.	National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (NICC/NG)	Algeria
2.	Defence Science and Technology Group	Australia
3.	Defensielaboratoria – Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD)	Belgium
4.	Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx)	Brazil
5.	Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence	China
6.	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	China
7.	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland
8.	DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique	France
9.	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN Protection	Germany
10.	Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India
11.	VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Establishment	India
12.	Defense Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
13.	Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defence Force	Japan
14.	TNO Defence, Safety and Security	Netherlands
15.	Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)	Norway
16.	Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science and Technology Organization	Pakistan
17.	Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre	Poland
18.	Chemical Analysis Laboratory, Chem-Bio Technology Center, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea
19.	CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command	Republic of Korea
20.	Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory	Romania
21.	Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
22.	Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, “State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology”	Russian Federation

	Laboratory	State Party
23.	Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore
24.	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain
25.	FOI, Swedish Defence Research Agency	Sweden
26.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland
27.	Chemical Warfare Agents Diagnosis and Verification Laboratory (NPHRL)	Türkiye
28.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
29.	DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Laboratory	United States of America
30.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America

Annex: Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in Official Proficiency Tests

Annex

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	State Party	50th (2021)	51st (2022)	52nd (2022)	53rd (2023)	54th (2023)	55th (2024)
National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (NICC/NG)	Algeria	D	#	B	A	A	-
Defence Science and Technology Group	Australia	-	A	-	-	A	A
Defensielaboratoria – Laboratoires de la Défense (DLD)	Belgium	A ¹	A	-	A	-	-
Laboratório de Análises Químicas, Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx)	Brazil	-	-	A	-	A	-
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 ¹	-
Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland	-	A ¹	-	-	A	-
DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département Analyse Chimique	France	A	-	A	-	A	-
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and CBRN Protection	Germany	A ¹	A ¹	-	A	-	-
Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India	B	A	A	-	A	-
VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Establishment	India	A	-	B	-	A	-
Defence Chemical Research Laboratory	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	A	-	A	-	A	-

Laboratory	State Party	50th (2021)	51st (2022)	52nd (2022)	53rd (2023)	54th (2023)	55th (2024)
Chemical School, Japan Ground Self-Defence Force	Japan	C	A	A	A	-	-
TNO Defence, Safety and Security	Netherlands	-	-	A	-	A	-
Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)	Norway	A	-	A	-	*	A
Analytical Laboratory, Defense Science and Technology Organization	Pakistan	A	-	A	-	A	-
Chemical Laboratory of CBRN Area Control Centre	Poland	F	A	B	-	A	-
Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CBR Directorate, Agency for Defense Development	Republic of Korea	A ¹	-	A	-	A	-
CBRN Defense Research Institute, ROK Defense Command	Republic of Korea	B	A	-	A	-	A ¹
Research and Innovation Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis Laboratory	Romania	-	-	C	B	-	-
Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	A	-	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	A	-	A	-	A	-
Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	-	-	A ¹	-	A	A
Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LA VEMA), INTA Campus La Marañosa	Spain	A	A	-	-	A	-
FOI, Swedish Defence Research Agency	Sweden	-	A ¹	-	A	-	-

Laboratory	State Party	50th (2021)	51st (2022)	52nd (2022)	53rd (2023)	54th (2023)	55th (2024)
Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	B	A	-	A ¹	-	A
Chemical Warfare Agents Identification and Verification Laboratory	Türkiye	-	A	-	A	-	A
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	-	A	-	B	-
DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, Forensic Analytical Laboratory	United States of America	-	A	-	-	A	A
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	United States of America	A	-	A	-	B	-

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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.
^{*} Withdrawal from the test without penalty before receiving samples was granted by the OPCW and the laboratory remains designated.
[#] Trial participant.