

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS  
OF THE SECOND TRIAL OPCW BIOTOXINS PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the States Parties of the results of the Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) from August 2025 to March 2026.
2. This Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test was focused on ricin, a high molecular weight toxin, building on a series of seven exercises and one trial proficiency test on the analysis of biotoxins organised by the Secretariat between 2016 and 2024.
3. This Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test was intended to be a second step towards establishing an official proficiency test for biotoxin analysis. Participation in the Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test was voluntary, and is neither related to nor replaces the requirements applicable to laboratories that wish to obtain or retain designated status for the analysis of authentic environmental or biomedical samples.
4. The test was conducted in line with (but not under) the quality management system documents based on International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission Standard ISO/IEC 17043. A set of documents comprised of one guideline, three working instructions, and the reporting format was agreed to by consensus by the participants prior to the test.
5. The Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test was conducted without assisting laboratories. The OPCW Laboratory prepared the test samples at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre). In addition, the OPCW Laboratory evaluated the participants' test reports of the Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test.
6. Twenty-three States Parties nominated 31 laboratories to participate in the test. Of these, two laboratories opted to take the test on a trial basis after receiving samples. Three laboratories withdrew from the test after receiving samples, presenting a justification to the OPCW Laboratory. Thus, there was a total of 28 participants for the test (26 regular participants and 2 trial participants).
7. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a hybrid meeting, held online and at the ChemTech Centre, between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 11 February 2026. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.



8. The final results for the Second Trial OPCW Biotoxins Proficiency Test consisted of 21 A's, 3 B's, and 2 D's, with detailed results as follows:
  - (a) Three nominated laboratories withdrew from the test after receiving samples. All of them provided a justification.
  - (b) Two nominated laboratories requested a change in status to become trial participants. One submitted a report with a time extension, and the other did not submit a report.
  - (c) All regular participants (26) submitted their reports within the test period.
  - (d) Twenty-one participants identified and reported the spiking chemical in all spiked samples with sufficient analytical data.
  - (e) Three participants identified and reported the spiking chemical in all but one spiked sample.
  - (f) Two participants identified and reported the spiking chemical in less than half of the spiked samples.
  - (g) One non-scoring chemical was reported.
  - (h) There were no false positives reported.