



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Eighth Session
20 – 24 October 2003

C-8/DEC.3
22 October 2003
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DECISION

PROCEDURES FOR REVISING THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR APPROVED EQUIPMENT

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling that at its Seventh Session it forwarded a draft decision on the procedures for revising the technical specifications for approved equipment (EC-28/DEC/CRP.4, dated 15 February 2002) to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) for approval, and for provisional application by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) (C-7/5, dated 11 October 2002);

Also recalling that at the same Session it required that the decision to be adopted by the Council be submitted to the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) for final consideration and approval;

Recalling further that the Council at its Thirty-First Session approved the procedures set out in subparagraphs (a) to (e) below for provisional application, and recommended that at its Eighth Session the Conference approve them (EC-31/DEC.8, dated 12 December 2002);

Understanding that developing and publishing technical specifications for the procurement of approved equipment ensures transparency, provides guidance for acquisition management, and ensures that States Parties are given an opportunity to understand the operational characteristics and capabilities of such equipment;

Also understanding that the technical specifications for approved equipment may need to be updated;

Recalling that States Parties have the right to familiarise themselves with all equipment procured by the OPCW and included in the list of approved equipment;

Reaffirming that, in procuring and acquiring equipment, the Secretariat uses a transparent process open to all States Parties according to the applicable financial regulations and procurement directives;

Recognising that existing approved equipment shall not be discarded before its full life is exhausted, or until it is unable to fulfil the requirements of conducting verification activities, or unless technological developments enable more-cost-effective inspection operations;



Hereby:

Approves the following procedures for revising the technical specifications for approved equipment:

- (a) the Director-General shall develop technical specifications for all items of approved equipment to be procured and acquired for the Organisation by the Secretariat, which shall be in accordance with the general and specific operational requirements. These technical specifications for approved equipment, whether procured or acquired, shall be such that equipment meeting these specifications is commercially available to States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- (b) the technical specifications shall outline the required characteristics and capabilities of the item, and where necessary, the characteristics of its parts, components, and accessories, and shall outline the benefits given by these revised specifications from a technical point of view. The technical specifications shall seek to maximise the item's applicability to the Convention's verification regime and resources;
- (c) the Director-General shall distribute the proposed list of revisions to the technical specifications to States Parties for review, shall consider any comments received within 60 days and shall submit proposed technical specifications together with the results of the review to the Council for approval;
- (d) after each item from the list of revised technical specifications has been approved by the Council, the Director-General shall ensure that the Secretariat only procures and acquires approved equipment which complies with the approved technical specifications;
- (e) informal consultations shall be arranged in order to discuss the items not approved. The entire process shall be completed in an expeditious manner.

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