OPCW **Conference of the States Parties**

Ninth Session
29 November – 2 December 2004

C-9/DEC.5
30 November 2004
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DECISION

ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF APPROVED EQUIPMENT

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling that at its First Session it adopted a list of approved equipment with operational requirements, technical specifications, and common evaluation criteria (C-I/DEC.71 and Corr.1, both dated 23 May 1997);

Recalling further that paragraph 27 of Part II of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention requires the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") to prepare and, as appropriate, update a list of approved equipment for consideration and approval by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference");

Noting that at its Seventh Session it adopted the procedures for updating that list (C-7/DEC.20, dated 11 October 2002);

Noting further the recommendation in a Note by the Director-General (EC-35/DG.1, dated 10 October 2003) that, based on the analysis of the item of equipment provided in the Annex to that Note, this item be included on the list of approved equipment;

Bearing in mind that, prior to the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council"), Member States were invited to submit to the Secretariat any comments they had on said item, and that no negative comments were received; and

Noting that in a decision it adopted at its Thirty-Sixth Session (EC-36/DEC.1, dated 23 March 2004) the Council recommended that the Conference at its Ninth Session approve for inclusion on the list of approved equipment the item described in the Annex to that decision.

Hereby:

Approves said item, a description of which is annexed hereto, for inclusion on the list of approved equipment.

Annex:

Description and Analysis of an Item Recommended for Inclusion on the List of Approved Equipment

Annex

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF AN ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF APPROVED EQUIPMENT

Item required, and justification of the requirement

1. The item required is an environmental temperature logger. It is needed to measure and record the temperature around two kinds of items—medical kits and sample-transport containers. Currently, Secretariat staff have no reliable means of determining whether medical kits have been exposed to large variations in temperature—information they need for safety reasons—or whether the containers have been exposed to extremely high or low temperatures—information that is required to ensure the validity of laboratory results.

The need to log the temperature around medical kits

2. The medical kits used by Secretariat staff contain pharmaceutical products that could be degraded and thus made unsafe through exposure to large variations in temperature. Quality-control procedures require that any medications so affected be discarded and replaced. Intravenous and intramuscular medications such as cardiac life-support drugs, anaesthetic agents, analgesics, antibiotics, and intravenous fluids are the most important in the kits and the most susceptible to these effects. An environmental temperature logger would provide a clear record that would allow staff to decide whether any medications in the kits should be discarded for the aforementioned reasons.

3. Because Secretariat staff have not had the benefit of an ongoing temperature log, they have had to discard certain medications on the assumption that they are unsafe. With this device, they would not be forced to make such an assumption and might be able to keep medications they would otherwise have to have discarded. Keeping any such medications would thus constitute a financial savings.

The need to log the temperature around sample-transport containers

4. Sample-transport containers carry authentic and control samples, and sample blanks, and it is important to know whether these items have been exposed to extremes of temperature, which can invalidate the analysis of the samples that receiving laboratories subsequently carry out. A temperature logger will provide just this information.

Functional requirements

5. The device needs to record temperatures in the temperature-measurement range specified below for at least one month at the sampling rate specified below.

Technical specifications

6. The relevant specifications are as follows:

(a) temperature-measurement range: -30° C to +50° C

(b) data capacity: at least 30 days' sampling, based on a rate of one reading every five minutes; and

(c) sensor accuracy: ± 0.5° C

Life-cycle costs

7. These costs, listed by category, are as follows:

(a) estimate of the number of items to be procured: 10—at least 5 for the sample-transport containers, and 1 for each medical kit in use;

(b) estimated purchase price for each item: EUR 200;

(c) estimated serviceable life: 6 years or longer; and

(d) annual support costs: This sort of device has no consumable parts except for a small replaceable battery, which has a life of at least 2 years. Also, should the device break down, it would be cheaper to replace it than to have it repaired.

Alternatives

8. The alternatives that have been considered and rejected are as follows:

(a) Insulating the kits and containers would add to the size and weight of the kits, thus increasing transport costs.

(b) Discarding pharmaceutical items without actually knowing whether they have been exposed to damaging fluctuations in temperature has meant wasting resources that might well have been safe to use.

Value added

9. As stated above, using a temperature logger will:

(a) allow staff to keep medications in the kits that they would otherwise be forced to discard; and

(b) help ensure that the analyses of samples carried out by receiving laboratories are valid.

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