



Eightieth Session  
6 – 8 October 2015

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8 October 2015  
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### DECISION

#### **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGNATION OF LABORATORIES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES – RECOGNITION OF THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES BY DESIGNATED LABORATORIES FOR THE RETENTION OF THEIR DESIGNATED STATUS**

**The Executive Council,**

**Recalling** that at its First Session the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) adopted the following decisions (all dated 22 May 1997): “Proficiency Testing Leading to Certification of Designated Laboratories” (C-I/DEC.60); “Criteria for the Designation of Laboratories by the OPCW” (C-I/DEC.61), “Criteria for Acceptable Performance of Laboratories in Proficiency Testing” (C-I/DEC.62); and “Criteria for the Conduct of OPCW/PTS Proficiency Testing” (C-I/DEC.65);

**Recalling further** that the Executive Council, mandated by the Conference at its Fifth Session (paragraph 21.4 of C-V/6, dated 19 May 2000), adopted the “Guidelines on the Designation of Laboratories for the Analysis of Authentic Samples” (EC-XX/DEC.3, dated 28 June 2000) to be taken into account by the Director-General in relation to the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples;

**Recognising** that, pursuant to subparagraph 56(b) of Part II of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Director-General has the responsibility to certify the laboratories designated to perform different types of analysis;

**Noting** that, in accordance with subparagraphs 2(b) and 4(b) of the Annex to EC-XX/DEC.3, once per year each designated laboratory is required to either participate as a regular participant in proficiency tests organised by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) or to support the Secretariat in preparing the test samples or in evaluating the test results in order to retain its designation, and that a laboratory’s designation will be withdrawn should it fail to participate in such proficiency tests;

**Bearing in mind** that mandatory participation in proficiency tests organised by the Secretariat poses a significant burden on those laboratories analysing authentic samples in support of the OPCW; and

**Noting** that the guidelines set out in the Annex to EC-XX/DEC.3 do not provide for exceptions to the requirement to participate in proficiency tests and that, under certain circumstances, the Secretariat may take into consideration the analysis of authentic samples



successfully performed by the designated laboratories for purposes of confirmation of their designated status;

**Hereby:**

**Recommends** that the Conference at its Twentieth Session:

**Decide** that, in relation to the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples, the Director-General will take into account the additional guidelines annexed hereto.

Annex:

Additional Guidelines on the Designation of Laboratories for the Analysis of Authentic Samples – Recognition of the Analysis of Authentic Samples by Designated Laboratories for the Retention of Their Designated Status

**Annex****ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGNATION OF LABORATORIES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES – RECOGNITION OF THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES BY DESIGNATED LABORATORIES FOR THE RETENTION OF THEIR DESIGNATED STATUS**

1. After a laboratory designated for the analysis of authentic samples performs analysis of authentic samples received from the Secretariat in accordance with OPCW procedures, the Secretariat will conduct an assessment of the laboratory's performance of this task. The Secretariat's assessment will consider the following:
  - (a) whether the laboratory correctly analysed the control samples provided by the Secretariat and correctly identified the spiked chemicals contained therein;
  - (b) whether the quality of the analysis and the report submitted is satisfactory and in accordance with the general requirements of the official OPCW proficiency test as described in the current set of quality documents maintained by the Secretariat, taking into account the differences in analytical scope, number, and type of samples between a standard official OPCW proficiency test and the authentic samples analysed by the laboratory; and
  - (c) whether the amount of work required for the analysis of the authentic samples is at least as high as that for the analysis of a standard official OPCW proficiency test.
2. If the Secretariat concludes as a result of the above assessment that the laboratory's performance of the analysis of authentic samples is satisfactory, it may decide that the laboratory immediately qualifies to receive a performance rating of "A" in the next official OPCW proficiency test. The report on the results of the proficiency test concerned, issued as a Note by the Secretariat, will indicate that the performance rating was granted to the designated laboratory for its satisfactory analysis of authentic samples conducted at the request of the Secretariat in accordance with OPCW procedures.
3. These above additional guidelines will be implemented as from 1 January 2016.