



Verification Division
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED
FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES**

1. Following the completion of the Sixth and Seventh Official Proficiency Tests, the Director-General wishes to inform Member States of the current status of the laboratories that have been designated for the analysis of authentic samples. In accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the States Parties at its First Session establishing the conditions under which laboratories may seek designation (C-I/DEC.60, 61, 62 and 65, all dated 22 May 1997), and the guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples (EC-XX/DEC.3, dated 28 June 2000), 12 laboratories have retained their designated status (S/125/99, dated 29 June 1999), and one laboratory has been newly designated, as follows:

Designated laboratories**Member State**

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD) | China ¹ |
| 2. Research Institute for Organic Syntheses, Centre of Ecology, Toxicology and Analytics (CETA) | Czech Republic ¹ |
| 3. Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) | Finland |
| 4. DGA, Centre d'Etudes du Bouchet (CEB) | France |
| 5. Chemisches Zentrallabor Wehrwissenschaftliches Institut für Schutztechnologien, ABC-Schutz | Germany |
| 6. GSRDC-4 Laboratory, Agency for Defence Development | Republic of Korea ¹ |
| 7. TNO Prins Maurits Laboratory (TNO-PML) | The Netherlands |
| 8. Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry, Analytical Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification | Poland |

¹ These designated laboratories performed unsuccessfully in the Sixth Official Proficiency Test, and will not be considered for the receipt of samples taken for off-site analysis until such time as they again meet the criterion stated in subparagraph 3(b) below.

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| 9. Swedish Defence Research Establishment (FOA), Division of NBC Defence | Sweden |
| 10. Defence Procurement Agency, AC-Laboratory Spiez | Switzerland |
| 11. CB Systems, Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), Porton Down | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 12. Edgewood Chemical & Biological Forensic Analytical Center | United States of America |

Newly designated laboratory

Member State

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 13. Laboratory of Military University of CBR Defence | Russian Federation |
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2. Should a designated laboratory perform unsuccessfully in a proficiency test, this will result in its temporary suspension. In this situation the laboratory will remain designated but 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 defined in C-I/DEC.67, dated 22 May 1997.
3. When designating laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples, in accordance with C-I/DEC.61 and C-I/DEC.65, the Director-General will take into account the following:
 - (a) the validity of the laboratory's quality system and accreditation (C-I/DEC.61), considering the quality system and standards used (ISO/IEC Guide 25, EN 45001, or equivalent), as well as the accreditation body, the accreditation validity period, and the scope of the accreditation. A proper quality system must be in place, and the scope of the accreditation must be relevant to the analysis of chemical warfare agents and related compounds, i.e. the laboratory has been accredited for the tasks for which it is seeking designation;² and
 - (b) the laboratory's successful performance in the OPCW's proficiency testing programme. A laboratory must participate at least once per calendar year. A combined rating of a laboratory's three most recent consecutive maximum scores (three A's, or two A's and one B) shall be regarded as successful performance (see subparagraph 4(d) of C-I/DEC.65).
4. The performance ratings of the designated laboratories in the first seven official proficiency tests are shown in the annex hereto.

Annex: Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in the First Seven Official Proficiency Tests

² See C-I/DEC.61, "Criteria for the designation of laboratories by the OPCW", and C-I/DEC.67, "Scope of activities of designated laboratories and the role and status of other laboratories".

Annex

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN THE FIRST SEVEN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	Member State	First (1996)	Second (1996)	Third (1997)	Fourth (1998)	Fifth (1998)	Sixth (1999)	Seventh (2000)
Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD)	China	A	A	A	–	A	C	A
Research Institute of Organic Syntheses, Centre of Ecology, Toxicology and Analytics (CETA)	Czech Republic	D	Failure	A	A	A	C	B
Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland	A	A	A	A	–	A	A
DGA, Centre d'Etudes du Bouchet (CEB)	France	A	B	A	–	A	B	A
Chemisches Zentrallabor Wehrwissenschaftliches Institut für Schutztechnologien (ABC-Schutz)	Germany	C	C	A	A	A	B	A
GSRDC-4 Laboratory, Agency for Defence Development	Republic of Korea	A	A	A	–	A	C	A
TNO Prins Maurits Laboratory (TNO-PML)	The Netherlands	B	A	A	B	–	A	A
Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry, Analytical Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification	Poland	B	A	B	A	–	A	–
Laboratory of the Military Academy of Chemical Defence, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation	Russian Federation	A	Failure	A	Failure	A	B	A
Swedish Defence Research Establishment (FOA), Division of NBC Defence	Sweden	A	A	A	–	A	B	–
Defence Procurement Agency, NC-Laboratory Spiez	Switzerland	A	A	A	A	–	B	A
CB Systems, Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	Failure	A	A	A	B	–
Edgewood Chemical & Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America	A	A	A	A	–	A	A

– Did not participate.