



Verification Division
S/441/2004
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF
THE FIFTEENTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Fifteenth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from 12 April to 16 July 2004. The test was conducted in accordance with the following set of quality documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests”, QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT1, issue 4, revision 2, dated 24 March 2004;
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Test Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests”, QDOC/LAB/WI/PT2, issue 1, revision 2, dated 24 March 2004; and
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests”, QDOC/LAB/WI/PT3, issue 1, revision 2, dated 24 March 2004.
2. Twenty laboratories in 16 Member States were nominated to participate in the test; in the end, 14 laboratories submitted a report of their analytical results for evaluation.
3. In order to retain their designation, designated laboratories must demonstrate once per calendar year that they have maintained their capabilities in a proficiency test organised by the Secretariat. Laboratories may either participate in these tests as regular participants, or support the Secretariat in the preparation of the test samples or in the evaluation of the test results.
4. Two laboratories generously offered to assist the Secretariat at no cost to the OPCW: the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence, China, which prepared the test samples, and Protechnik Laboratories (Pty) Ltd in South Africa, which evaluated the test results.
5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 16 July 2004. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results, and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted the performance evaluation.



6. Protechnik Laboratories re-evaluated the preliminary results from laboratory 3 and, in light of the comments that had been submitted, clarified the remarks that had been made in the evaluation of laboratory 12. It submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 6 August 2004.
7. The principal results of the Fifteenth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) As mentioned above, all 20 nominated laboratories participated in the test; and of these, 14 submitted a report of their analytical results for evaluation.
 - (b) Twelve of the 14 laboratories that had submitted a report for evaluation met the adopted criteria and qualified for scoring.
 - (c) Eight laboratories identified all of the deliberately introduced (spiking) chemicals used for scoring, and reported them with sufficient analytical data.
 - (d) In accordance with paragraph 10.7 of QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT1, two laboratories informed the test coordinator, in writing, of their withdrawal from the test. On the basis of their explanations, no penalty was imposed for the withdrawal.
 - (e) Four participating laboratories failed the test: two because they had not submitted a report, one because it submitted its report late, and one because it reported one or more false positive results.
 - (f) The laboratories that assisted the Secretariat in preparing the test samples and in evaluating the results were awarded the maximum performance rating of A.
8. The final results for all the participating laboratories are presented in the table annexed hereto.
9. The participating laboratories are reminded that, if they have made any errors, or reported false positives or false negatives (arising from a failure to find a spiking chemical or to provide sufficient supporting data for a chemical that is found), they should take immediate remedial action. Before participating in the next test, each such laboratory is required to submit to the Secretariat a full report stating the cause of the problem and **any remedial action it has taken**. Any such laboratory failing to submit the required report, including details of the remedial action it has taken, will not be permitted to participate in the next proficiency test.

Annex:

Final Results of the Fifteenth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

RESULTS OF THE FIFTEENTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant Laboratory (and Test Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Scored Chemicals	Rating	Comments ¹
Denmark (3) Ministry of Defence Emergency Management Agency, Chemical Division	6	5	C	Spiking chemical F not reported Insufficient analytical data to support identification of spiking chemical G
China The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence			A	Preparation of samples
Germany (9) Wehrwissenschaftliches Institut für Schutztechnologien – ABC - Schutz	7	7	A	-
India (19) Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)	7	7	A	-
India (10) Regional Research of Chemical Technology (RRL)	-	-	-	Withdrew
India (17) Defence Research & Development Establishment VERTOX Laboratory	-	-	-	Withdrew
Indonesia (5) Research Institute for Chemistry - Indonesian Institute of Sciences	-	-	F	Late submission of report
Malawi (18) Industrial Constancy Unit (ICU)	-	-	F	No report submitted

¹ The spiking chemicals were as follows:

- O2:** (A) 2-Methylpentyl propylphosphonofluoridate;
(B) Isobutyl S-2-diisopropylaminoethyl propylphosphonothiolate;
(C) 1,4-Bis(2-chloroethylthio)-n-butane;
- W:** (D) Propylphosphonic acid;
(E) Isopropylphosphonic acid;
(F) 1,4-Bis(2-hydroxyethylsulfonyl)-n-butane;
(G) Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)sulfone;
- O1:** none.

Participant Laboratory (and Test Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Scored Chemicals	Rating	Comments
Malawi (8) Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)	-	-	F	No report submitted
Poland (15) Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification, Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	7	7	A	-
Republic of Korea (13) The Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department Agency for Defence Development	7	7	A	-
Romania (4) NBC and Ecological Defence Scientific Research Centre	5	2	D	Spiking chemical B and F not reported Insufficient analytical data to support identification of spiking chemicals C, D, and E
Russian Federation (16) Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory GosNIIOKhT (CAL)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical F not reported
Russian Federation (11) The Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military University for Radioactive, Chemical and Biological Protection	7	7	A	-
Singapore (6) Verification Laboratory Centre for Chemical Defence DSO National Laboratories	7	7	A	-
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories (Pty) Ltd			A	Evaluation of results
Switzerland (12) Spiez Laboratory	7	7	A	-
Turkey (14) Refik Saydam Hifzisihha Merkezi Baskanligi	1	0	F	Spiking chemicals A, B, C, E, F, and G not reported Insufficient analytical data to support identification of spiking chemical D False positive reported

Participant Laboratory (and Test Code)	No. of Scorable Reported Chemicals	No. of Scored Chemicals	Rating	Comments
Ukraine (7) Kharkiv Research Center of Ministry Ecology (Ecocenter- 43) of the State Analytical Laboratory (SAL)	4	4	C	Spiking chemicals B, F, and G not reported.
United States of America (1) Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	7	7	A	-