



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/508/2005

14 July 2005

ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A WORKSHOP FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES  
ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE TRANSFER OF CHEMICALS REGIME  
THE HAGUE, 4 – 5 OCTOBER 2005**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite National Authorities from Member States to nominate participants to attend a workshop for customs authorities on technical aspects relating to the implementation of the transfer of chemicals regime, to be held at the OPCW headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 4 to 5 October 2005. This workshop will provide information to senior customs authorities that are involved with implementing the transfer of chemicals regime under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) about current best practices in this area, and should improve the ability of Member States to track the transfers of chemicals relevant to the Convention.
2. At its Eighth Session, the Conference of the States Parties approved a plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations, *inter alia* agreeing “that it is imperative that those States Parties that still need to do so take the necessary steps and set realistic target dates for these steps leading to the enactment of the necessary legislation, including penal legislation, and/or the adoption of administrative measures to implement the Convention no later than the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, scheduled for November 2005;” (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003).
3. The manner in which customs authorities handle scheduled chemicals has a practical impact on the implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention, and can play a key role in diminishing and eventually eliminating discrepancies between the amounts of scheduled chemicals declared by exporting States Parties and those declared by the importing States Parties. This workshop will provide participating States Parties with an opportunity to discuss amongst themselves and with the personnel of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) such topics as:
  - (a) customs-related issues (in-transit shipments, free-trade areas, identification of chemicals, and other relevant topics);
  - (b) concrete examples of how customs controls on transfers of scheduled chemicals can be implemented; and



- (c) how the codes used by the World Customs Organization and the OPCW can be harmonised, thus leading to an improvement in the monitoring of transfers of chemicals.
4. Participants are encouraged to make presentations on the various issues being raised during the workshop, and are expected to participate actively in the discussions. The provisional programme for the workshop is included as Annex 1 to this Note.
  5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor the participation of up to two representatives from customs authorities, including those authorities involved in implementing and enforcing customs regulations relevant to the provisions of the Convention in each participating Member State. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee's participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. The Secretariat will also arrange and pay for accommodation for sponsored participants. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate that as soon as possible, so that it does not incur hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation it has not arranged.
  6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than 3 October 2005**, and to **depart no later than 6 October 2005**. The Secretariat's agreement is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the workshop or that result from changes in travel arrangements it has not authorised. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if necessary, arrange accommodation at reduced rates.
  7. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to The Hague.
  8. All activities during the workshop will be conducted in the six official languages of the OPCW and full interpretation services will be provided. A good working knowledge of English, both written and spoken, is also required.
  9. Interested National Authorities are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure in particular to provide all the contact details it requests. Completed forms should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to: +31 (0)70 306 3535, or by e-mail to: [ipb@opcw.org](mailto:ipb@opcw.org). All nominations must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 18 August 2005**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the workshop.

10. Additional information about the workshop may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact person is: Ms Maria Elena Bruno Pousadela, who can be reached at: +31 (0)70 416 3825.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Annex 2: Nomination Form

**Annex 1**

**WORKSHOP FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS  
RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE TRANSFER OF CHEMICALS REGIME  
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS  
4 – 5 OCTOBER 2005**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<i>Tuesday, 4 October 2005</i>	
10:00 – 10:30	Registration and introduction to the workshop
10:30 – 11:15	An introduction to the CWC <sup>1</sup>
11:15 – 11:45	An introduction to the OPCW
11:45 – 12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00 – 12:45	Status of implementation of the CWC
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Legal requirements for enforcing the CWC's transfers regime
15:00 – 15:30	Transfer requirements of the CWC – “dual use” chemicals
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Presentations on issues covered in related workshops held in Rivasvaciamadrid, Barcelona, and Buenos Aires
16:30 – 17:00	The Green Customs Initiative
<i>Wednesday, 5 October 2005</i>	
10:00 – 10:45	Presentations by States Parties on steps taken to implement the provisions of the transfers regime
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Presentations by States Parties on steps taken to implement the provisions of the transfers regime (continued)
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Customs-related issues (in-transit shipments, free-trade areas, identifying chemicals, and other relevant topics)
14:30 – 15:15	Harmonising the codes used by the WCO <sup>2</sup> and the OPCW
15:15 – 15:45	Round-table discussion
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Conclusions and summing up

<sup>1</sup> CWC = The Chemical Weapons Convention

<sup>2</sup> WCO = The World Customs Organization

## Annex 2

**WORKSHOP FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS  
RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE TRANSFER OF CHEMICALS REGIME  
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS  
4 – 5 OCTOBER 2005**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form **by 18 August 2005** to:  
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW  
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands  
Fax: +31 (0)70 306 3535; e-mail: [ipb@opcw.org](mailto:ipb@opcw.org).  
Please use **BLOCK LETTERS**.

1.	Family name of nominee			
2.	First name(s)			
3.	Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
4.	Citizenship			
5.	Gender*	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Passport number			
7.	Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
8.	Expiry date	Day	Month	Year
9.	Place of issue			
10.	Areas of expertise			
11.	Employer			
12.	Position			
13.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
		Number	Post code	
		City		
		Country		

\* For this and all like items below, please tick the appropriate box.

14.	E-mail address	
15.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
16.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
17.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>