



Verification Division
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

STATUS OF LABORATORIES DESIGNATED FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AUTHENTIC SAMPLES

1. The Conference of the States Parties at its First Session established the conditions under which laboratories may seek designation (C-I/DEC.60, 61, 62, and 65, all dated 22 May 1997), and at its Fifth Session (C-V/6, dated 19 May 2000) mandated the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to take a decision regarding guidelines on the designation of laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples. The Council took this decision at its Twentieth Session (EC-XX/DEC.3, dated 28 June 2000).
2. When designating laboratories for the analysis of authentic samples, and in accordance with C-I/DEC.61 and C-I/DEC.65, the Director-General takes the following into account:
 - (a) whether the laboratory has established a quality system in accordance with the relevant standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2005, ILAC-G 13:2000, or equivalent) and has a valid accreditation by an internationally recognised accreditation body for the tasks for which it is seeking designation—namely, the analysis of chemical-warfare agents and related compounds in various types of samples; and
 - (b) whether the laboratory has performed successfully in the OPCW’s proficiency-testing programme.
3. A laboratory must participate in the proficiency-testing programme at least once per calendar year. According to subparagraph 4(d) of the Annex to C-I/DEC.65, a rating of three A’s, or two A’s and one B, on a laboratory’s three most recent consecutive tests, shall be regarded as constituting a successful performance.
4. If a designated laboratory performs unsuccessfully in a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended but retain designated status or have its designated status withdrawn according to the guidelines set out in EC-XX/DEC.3. When this happens, the laboratory, also in accordance with EC-XX/DEC.3, 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 set out in C-I/DEC.67, dated 22 May 1997.



5. Following the completion of the Twenty-First Official OPCW Proficiency Test, the Director-General wishes to inform States Parties of the current status of the laboratories that have been designated for the analysis of authentic samples. Nineteen laboratories from 17 States Parties are designated, and 7 of these are temporarily suspended.

DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

	Laboratory	State Party
1.	Defence Laboratories Department (DLD)	Belgium
2.	The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD)	China
3.	Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology (AMMS)	China
4.	Research Institute for Organic Syntheses, Centre of Ecology, Toxicology and Analytics	Czech Republic*
5.	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland
6.	Centre d'Etudes du Bouchet (CEB)	France
7.	Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC ¹ Protection	Germany*
8.	VERTOX Laboratory Defence Research and Development Establishment	India*
9.	TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands
10.	Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification, Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland*
11.	Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defence Development	Republic of Korea*
12.	Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control, Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
13.	Verification Laboratory, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore
14.	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fabrica Nacional la Marañosa	Spain*
15.	Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Division of NBC Defence	Sweden
16.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland
17.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
18.	Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America*
19.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California	United States of America

* An asterisk next to the name of a laboratory means that it has been temporarily suspended, having performed unsuccessfully in a proficiency test, and that it will not be considered for the receipt of samples taken for off-site analysis until it again meets the criterion set out in subparagraph 2(b) above.

¹ NBC = nuclear, biological, and chemical

6. The performance ratings for these laboratories are annexed hereto.

Annex:

Recent Ratings of Laboratories That Have Been Designated As of the Twenty-First Official Proficiency Test

Annex

**RECENT RATINGS OF LABORATORIES THAT HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS OF
THE TWENTY-FIRST OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TEST**

Laboratory	State Party	Proficiency Test											
		10th (2001)	11th (2002)	12th (2002)	13th (2003)	14th (2003)	15th (2004)	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)
DLD	Belgium	–	A	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	B	–
RICD	China	A	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	A	A
Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, AMMS	China	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	B	A	A
Research Institute for Organic Syntheses, Centre of Ecology, Toxicology and Analytics	Czech Republic	B	–	B	–	D	–	B	–	A	–	C	–
VERIFIN	Finland	A	A**	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–
CEB	France	A	A	–	A	–	–	A	–	A	–	A	–
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection	Germany	–	A	A	A	–	A	–	A	–	C	–	B
Defence Research and Development Establishment, VERTOX Laboratory	India	D	C	B	A	C	Withdrew	A	A	A	C	A	A
TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands	A	–	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	A	–	–
Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification, Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland	A	–	C	A	–	A	–	–	A	–	C	–
Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defence Development	Republic of Korea	–	A	A	–	A	A	–	–	B	C	–	C
The Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	C	–	B	–	A	A	–	A	–	–	B	–
Verification Laboratory, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	A	A	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	A	A

** Two asterisks indicates that the score is a result of the satisfactory assistance provided by the laboratory during the proficiency test, but cannot be used to evaluate whether the laboratory can be considered for designation, because this laboratory assisted during a proficiency test in 2001 and that score was subsequently counted for designation (see paragraph 5(c) of C-I/DEC.65, which states that “laboratories cannot use performance rating for preparing the samples or evaluating the analytical results of more than one of their last three consecutive proficiency tests”).

Laboratory	State Party	Proficiency Test											
		10th (2001)	11th (2002)	12th (2002)	13th (2003)	14th (2003)	15th (2004)	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)
Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fabrica Nacional la Marañosa	Spain	B	A	A	–	B	–	A	–	A	–	C	C
Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Division of NBC Defence	Sweden	A	–	C	–	A	–	A	–	B	A	–	–
Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	A	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	A	–	A
Chemical and Biological Systems, Dstl, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	A**	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	B	–
Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A***	A	C	A	A
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California	United States of America	A	A	B	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	B	–

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*** This score is a result of the satisfactory assistance provided by the laboratory during the proficiency test, but cannot be used to evaluate whether the laboratory can be considered for designation, because this laboratory assisted during a proficiency test in 2003 and that score was subsequently counted for designation (see paragraph 5(c) of C-I/DEC.65, which states that “laboratories cannot use performance rating for preparing the samples or evaluating the analytical results of more than one of their last three consecutive proficiency tests”).