



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 valid accreditation by an internationally recognised accreditation body for the tasks for which it is seeking designation—namely, for 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 As, or two As 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a proficiency test, it may be temporarily suspended but retain designated status or it may have its designated status withdrawn, according to the guidelines in EC-XX/DEC.3.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-Third Official OPCW Proficiency Test, 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. Twenty laboratories from 17 Member States are designated, but four 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 (CETA)	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 Protection (WIS)	Germany
8.	VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India
9.	Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India
10.	TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands
11.	Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland*
12.	Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department Agency for Defence Development	Republic of Korea*
13.	The Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military University for the Radioactive, Chemical and Biological Protection, Military Research Centre	Russian Federation
14.	Verification Laboratory, DSO National Laboratories	Singapore
15.	Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas Fábrica Nacional "La Marañosa"	Spain*
16.	Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) Division of NBC Defence	Sweden
17.	Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland

* An asterisk next to the name of the State Party means that the laboratory 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 stated in subparagraph 2(b) above.

18.	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
19.	Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America
20.	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory University of California	United States of America

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

Annex:

Performance Ratings of Designated Laboratories in Official Proficiency Tests

Annex

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES IN OFFICIAL PROFICIENCY TESTS

Laboratory	Member States	11th (2002)	12th (2002)	13th (2003)	14th (2003)	15th (2004)	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)	22nd (2007)	23rd (2008)
Defence Laboratories Department (DLD)	Belgium	A	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	A
The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD)	China	–	A	–	A	A	–	–	A	–	A	A	–	–
Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology (AMMS)	China	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	B	A	A	–	A
Research Institute for Organic Syntheses, Centre of Ecology, Toxicology and Analytics (CETA)	Czech Republic	–	B	–	D	–	B	–	A	–	C	–	D	–
Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)	Finland	A*	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	A
Centre d'Etudes du Bouchet (CEB)	France	A	–	A	–	–	A	–	A	–	A	–	A	–
Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC protection (WIS)	Germany	A	A	A	–	A	–	A	–	C	–	B	A	A
Vertox Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment	India	C	B	A	C	with-drew	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	–
Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	India	D	F	C	A	A	A	D	A	C	F	A	A	B
TNO Defence, Security and Safety	Netherlands	–	A	–	A	–	B	–	A	A	–	–	A	–
Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry	Poland	–	C	A	–	A	–	–	A	–	C	–	A	–

* 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, since a score from previous assistance within the prior three tests by this laboratory was counted for designation (see paragraph 5(c) of C-I/DEC.65).

Laboratory	Member States	11th (2002)	12th (2002)	13th (2003)	14th (2003)	15th (2004)	16th (2004)	17th (2005)	18th (2005)	19th (2006)	20th (2006)	21st (2007)	22nd (2007)	23rd (2008)
Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department Agency for Defence Development	Republic of Korea	A	A	-	A	A	-	-	B	C	-	C	-	A
Laboratory for Chemical and Analytical Control Military Research Centre	Russian Federation	-	B	-	A	A	-	A	-	-	B	-	A	-
Verification Laboratory DSO National Laboratories	Singapore	A	A	-	A	A	-	-	A	-	A	A	-	-
Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fábrica Nacional "La Marañosa"	Spain	A	A	-	B	-	A	-	A	-	C	C	A	A
Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) Division of NBC Defence	Sweden	-	C	-	A	-	A	-	B	A	-	-	A	-
Spiez Laboratory Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	Switzerland	-	A	-	A	A	-	-	A	A	-	A	-	A
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Chemical and Biological Systems Porton Down	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A*	A	-	A	-	A	-	A	-	B	-	A	-
Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center	United States of America	A	-	A	-	A	-	A*	A	C	A	A	-	A
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory University of California	United States of America	A	B	-	A	-	A	-	A	-	B	-	A	-

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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, since a score from previous assistance within the prior 3 tests by this laboratory was counted for designation (see paragraph 5(c) of C-I/DEC.65).