



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

Verification Division

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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SCHEDULE FOR OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TESTS IN 2008

1. The Director-General wishes to inform Member States of the schedule and arrangements for the two official OPCW proficiency tests, the twenty-third and the twenty-fourth, to be conducted in 2008. These tests will be conducted using a revised format designed to ensure that the proficiency tests more closely emulate the conditions that will be expected from designated laboratories—in terms of both sampling and reporting—when authentic samples are analysed. The tests will be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01);
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Test Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02); and
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03).
2. The test schedule is as follows:
 - (a) The samples for the twenty-third test will be dispatched on 11 April 2008. Fábrica Nacional “La Marañosa”, Madrid, Spain, will prepare the test samples, and Defence Laboratories Department, Vilvoorde (Peutie), Belgium, will assist in evaluating the results.
 - (b) The samples for the twenty-fourth test will be dispatched in October 2008.
3. At the request of several laboratories, the Technical Secretariat will allow any laboratory to be nominated to take the twenty-third Official OPCW Proficiency Test on a trial basis. The nomination of the laboratory must state that the participation will be on a trial basis. Any changes in the participating laboratory’s decision must be sent in writing to the OPCW Laboratory. Once samples have been dispatched, the participating laboratory may not alter its decision. Laboratories taking the test on a trial basis will be evaluated as regular participants but their results will not be considered in regard to seeking designation. Note that any designated laboratory that chooses to take this test on a trial basis must participate in the twenty-fourth OPCW Proficiency Test in order to retain its designation.

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