



Verification Division
S/754/2009
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF
THE TWENTY-FOURTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Twenty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from 10 October 2008 to 5 November 2008. 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/PT01 (Issue 1 of Revision 1, dated 15 September 2008));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Test Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 1 of Revision 1, dated 15 September 2008); and
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 1 of Revision 1, dated 15 September 2008).
2. Designated laboratories must, in order to retain their designation, demonstrate once per calendar year that they have maintained their capabilities in a proficiency test organised by the Secretariat. Since this test was the second to use a new proficiency-test methodology, the laboratories could participate in this test either as a regular participant or as a trial participant, or support the Secretariat in the preparation of the test samples or in the evaluation of the test results.
3. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the United States of America assisted the Secretariat in evaluating the test results. The OPCW Laboratory prepared the samples for the test.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between the Secretariat staff and the test participants on 12 February 2009. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results, and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted the performance evaluation.



5. Laboratories 02, 09, 16, and 23 submitted valid comments, and the evaluating laboratory, the LLNL, re-evaluated their preliminary results. The Secretariat agreed with the results of the re-evaluation, which led to no change in the preliminary scores for Laboratories 02, 09, 16, and 23. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 11 March 2009.
6. The principal results of the Twenty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) Twenty-seven laboratories from 23 Member States were nominated to participate in this proficiency test, including two assisting laboratories.
 - (b) Twenty-two laboratories from 19 Member States participated as regular participants. One new laboratory opted to participate in a trial test.
 - (c) From the nominated laboratories, three laboratories, including one of the new participants, withdrew from the test prior to the sample-dispatch date, which was accepted by the OPCW Laboratory without any penalties (see paragraph 10 of QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01).
 - (d) All twenty-two regular participating laboratories met the adopted criteria for submission, timeliness, and reporting, and thus qualified for scoring in the test.
 - (e) Three of the 22 laboratories reported false positive chemicals and consequently failed the test.
 - (f) Two laboratories failed the test because they did not comply with paragraph 14.13 of QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03, in that they did not provide a statement, comments, and/or sample-preparation pages/flow charts for those samples that did not contain scheduled chemicals and/or their degradation products.
 - (g) Ten participating laboratories reported a total of six non-scoring chemicals.
 - (h) Eleven of the 22 laboratories identified all of the deliberately introduced (spiked) chemicals used for scoring, reported them, and included sufficient analytical data.
 - (i) The evaluating laboratory was awarded the maximum performance rating of "A".
7. The final results for all 22 regular participating laboratories are presented in the table annexed hereto.
8. 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 Twenty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

**FINAL RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating (See Table 6)	Comments*
China Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (RICD) (08)	6	6	A	-
France Centre d'Études du Bouchet (CEB) (01)	6	6	A	-
Hungary Scientific Institute, Military Medical Center (04)	5	4	C	Spiking chemical A not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemical E
India VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment (03)	6	6	A	-
India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) (09)	6	5	B	Insufficient data for reported spiking chemical A
Indonesia Research Center Chemistry (RCC), Indonesian Institute of Science (10)	5	4	C	Spiking chemical A not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemical D

* The spiking chemicals were as follows:

- Sample 320: (A) - (3aR, 7aS)-2-ethylhexahydro-1,3,2-benzodioxaphosphole-2-oxide
- Sample 380: (B) - Bis(3-methylbutyl) ethylphosphonate
- Sample 380: (C) - Bis(2-chloroethyl) methylamine
- Sample 485: (D) - Propylphosphonic acid
- Sample 154: (E) - Pinacolyl methylphosphonate
- Sample 154: (F) - Triethanolamine

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating (See Table 6)	Comments*
Malaysia Department of Chemistry, Malaysia Ministry of Science (05)	3	2	F	Spiking chemicals A, C, and F not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemical D Failure due to non-compliance with paragraph 14.13 of QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03
Netherlands TNO Defence, Security and Safety (11)	6	6	A	-
Poland Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification, Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry (06)	6	6	A	-
Republic of Korea Chemical Analysis Laboratory CB Department, Agency for Defence Development (02)	6	5	B	Insufficient data for reported spiking chemical F
Romania Chemical Analysis and Testing Laboratory, NBC and Ecology Defence Scientific Research Centre (21)	5	4	F	Spiking chemical A not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemical F Failure due to reporting of two false positive chemicals (P and Q)
Russian Federation Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal National Unitary Establishment (CAL) (07)	6	6	A	-

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating (See Table 6)	Comments*
Russian Federation The Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of the Military University for the Radioactive, Chemical and Biological Protection Military Research Centre (12)	6	6	A	-
Serbia Military Medical Academy National Poison Control Centre, Institute of Toxicology and Pharmacology (13)	-	-	F	Spiking chemicals A to F not reported Failure due to reporting a false positive chemical (R)
Serbia Center for Chemistry (ICTM), University of Belgrade (23)	6	4	C	Insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals A and D
Singapore Verification Laboratory, DSO National Laboratories (14)	6	6	A	-
Slovakia Reference Chemical Laboratory, Military Unit (22)	3	-	D	Spiking chemicals A, D, and E not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals B, C, and F
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, A Division of Armscor Business (Pty) Ltd (15)	5	-	F	Spiking chemical A not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals B, C, D, E, and F Failure due to reporting three false positive chemicals (L, M, and N)
Spain Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas, Fábrica Nacional “La Marañosa” (20)	6	6	A	-

Participant (Identification Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating (See Table 6)	Comments*
Sweden Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Division of NBC Defence (18)	6	6	A	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down (17)	6	6	A	-
United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), University of California (Evaluating laboratory)	-	-	A	-
Viet Nam Chemical Monitoring Laboratory, Military of Defense (16)	4	-	F	Spiking chemicals A and D not reported; insufficient data for reported spiking chemicals B, C, E, and F Failure due to non-compliance with paragraph 14.13 of QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03