



Verification Division  
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### NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### NEW FEATURES IN SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS DURING SCHEDULE 2 INSPECTIONS

1. Sampling and analysis (S&A) during Schedule 2 inspections started in 2006 after the announcement made by the Director-General during the Forty-Third Session of the Executive Council. Several key action items had emerged from lessons learned during the one-and-one-half-year start-up period. These items are summarised in the reports on Schedule 2 S&A for the start-up period (S/688/2008, dated 10 April 2008) and after the start-up period (S/719/2008, dated 10 November 2008). Through this Note, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) is informing States Parties about two new features that will be available for use in future Schedule 2 inspections with S&A, namely, a more flexible “blinded” operating mode and the autoinjector.
2. As indicated in the report on the start-up period (S/688/2008), the Secretariat has been working on the development of a more flexible “blinded” operating mode (also referred to as “**blinded**” mode) that would, with the concurrence of the inspected State Party, allow the Inspection Team to access a commercial library in order to facilitate rapid identification of the mass scan for compounds that have a match with the OPCW Central Analytical Database. This more flexible blinded mode would avoid the time-consuming process of re-installing the gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) computer hard drive and re-analysing the sample in question, while maintaining all the security features of the original blinded mode.
3. In addition, in order to reduce the number of false positive identifications, the GC/MS computer software has been updated so that it will only show those identifications that are within the match-factor and retention-index limits.
4. The use of an autoinjector will make better use of the operational time of the GC/MS by performing the injection of the prepared samples instead of the analytical chemist, thus freeing him or her to perform other tasks while the GC/MS remains in operation. In addition, the autoinjector ensures greater uniformity in the injection of liquid samples into the GC/MS. The autoinjector is approved equipment, notified to States Parties in 2007 (EC-49/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2007). The Secretariat has updated the software and working instructions in order to make the autoinjector operational for Schedule 2 inspections with S&A.

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