



Verification Division
S/1168/2014
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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Thirty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from October 2013 to February 2014. The test was conducted in accordance with the following quality management system documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01 (Issue 2, Revision 2, dated 6 August 2012));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 2, Revision 2, dated 28 March 2013));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 3, Revision 0, dated 28 March 2013)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 1, Revision 2, dated 28 March 2013)).
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.
3. Two laboratories offered to assist the Secretariat in conducting the Thirty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test: the Chemical Analysis Laboratory, Agency for Defence Development, Republic of Korea assisted in preparing the test samples and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland assisted in evaluating the test results.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between the Secretariat staff and the test participants on 12 February 2014. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results, and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted the performance evaluation.
5. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 12 March 2014.



6. The principal results of the Thirty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) twenty-three Member States nominated 27 laboratories, including two assisting laboratories, to participate in the test;
 - (b) one of the participants withdrew from the test prior to the sample dispatch date;
 - (c) twenty-six participants including two assisting laboratories and two trial participants took part in the test;
 - (d) twenty-one of the test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period;
 - (e) one regular participant and two trial participants did not submit a report in time;
 - (f) nine test participants identified and reported, with sufficient analytical data, all of the spiked chemicals;
 - (g) three false positive chemicals were reported by two test participants;
 - (h) one non-scoring chemical was reported by two test participants;
 - (i) irrelevant chemicals were reported by two test participants;
 - (j) no scores were given for two trial participations;
 - (k) the sample preparation laboratory and the evaluating laboratory were awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”; and
 - (l) there are 11 As, four Bs, five Cs, one D and three Fs in the test score for the regular participants, including the two As of the two assisting laboratories.
7. The final results for all the laboratories participating in the test 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 Thirty-Fourth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex
FINAL RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant (Laboratory Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Belgium Defence Laboratories Department (18)	5	5	C	Spiking chemicals A, B, and F were not reported
Brazil CTEx, Laboratório de Análises Químicas (06)	5	4	C	Spiking chemicals A, B, and F were not reported; reported spiking chemical E was not scored owing to insufficient data
China Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences (08)	8	8	A	-
Czech Republic VVÚ Brno, s.p., Vojenský výzkumný ústav, s.p. (15)	2	0	F	Spiking chemicals A, D, E, F, G, and H were not reported; reported spiking chemicals B and C were not scored owing to insufficient data; and reported a false positive chemical J
Finland VERIFIN, Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (20)	8	8	A	-

¹ The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 521: (A) 1,5-Bis(vinylthio)-n-pentane

Sample 521: (B) 1,4-Bis(2-hydroxyethylthio)-n-butane

Sample 522: (C) Diethyl methylphosphonate

Sample 525: (D) Isobutyl ethylphosphonate

Sample 525: (E) 2-(N,N-diethylamino)ethanesulfonic acid

Sample 525: (F) 1,4-Bis(2-hydroxyethylsulfonyl)-n-butane

Sample 526: (G) Pinacolyl alcohol

Sample 526: (H) Ethylphosphonic acid

Participant (Laboratory Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
France DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques (12)	8	8	A	-
Germany Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection (01)	7	7	B	Spiking chemical A was not reported
Ghana Ministry of Health, Food and Drugs Authority, Laboratory Services Department (23)	0	0	#	No score was given for trial participation
India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (17)	6	6	C	Spiking chemicals B and F were not reported
India Vertox Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment (02)	8	8	A	-
India Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins (11)	8	8	A	Reported a non-scoring chemical I
Mauritius Forensic Science Laboratory, National Laboratories Complex (16)	0	0	#	No score was given for trial participation

Participant (Laboratory Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Netherlands TNO Defence, Security and Safety (40)	8	8	A	-
Nigeria National Advanced Laboratories, Sheda Science and Technology Complex (21)	0	0	F	Spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H were not reported; failure due to reported irrelevant chemicals
Norway FFI, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Protection Division Laboratory for Identification of Chemical Warfare Agents (09)	7	7	B	Spiking chemical A was not reported
Republic of Korea Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defence Development	-	-	A	Sample preparation laboratory
Romania Chemical Analysis and Testing Laboratory, Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology (24)	6	5	C	Spiking chemicals A and E were not reported; reported spiking chemical F was not scored owing to insufficient data
Russian Federation Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of Military Research Centre (14)	8	7	B	Reported spiking chemical F was not scored owing to insufficient data

Participant (Laboratory Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Russian Federation Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, “State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry And Technology” (10)	8	8	A	-
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, a division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd (05)	5	4	C	Spiking chemicals A, E, and F were not reported; reported spiking chemical D was not scored since the CAS number was not provided as per QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 §10.2
Spain Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), Instituto Tecnológico “La Marañosa” (19)	7	7	B	Spiking chemical F was not reported
Sweden FOI, CBRN Defence and Security, Swedish Defence Research Agency (07)	8	8	A	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down	-	-	A	Evaluating laboratory

Participant (Laboratory Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
United Republic of Tanzania Government Chemist Laboratory Agency, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (22)	0	0	F	Spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H were not reported; failure due to reported false positive chemicals J, K, and L and irrelevant chemicals M and N
United States of America Los Alamos National Laboratory, Bioscience Division (25)	-	-	-	Withdrew from test prior to sample dispatch
United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (04)	8	8	A	Reported a non-scoring chemical I
Viet Nam Center for Technology Environmental Treatment (13)	2	1	D	Spiking chemicals A, B, D, E, F, and H were not reported; reported spiking chemical G was not scored owing to insufficient data