



NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Thirty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from April to August 2016. The OPCW Laboratory is accredited by the Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA), the Netherlands, to conduct proficiency testing in compliance with the criteria laid down in ISO/IEC 17043. The test was conducted according to the following quality management system documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/PT01 (Issue 3, Revision 0, dated 1 April 2016));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 0, dated 1 April 2016));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 3, Revision 2, dated 10 April 2015)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 2, Revision 2, dated 1 April 2016)).
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, unless the additional guidelines in decision C-20/DEC.4 (dated 2 December 2015) are applicable.
3. Spiez Laboratory, Switzerland assisted the Secretariat in preparing the test samples and Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, United States of America evaluated the results of the Thirty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 29 June 2016. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.
5. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 8 August 2016.



6. The principal results of the Thirty-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) Nine regular test participants and one trial participant submitted their analytical report within the test period.
 - (b) Six regular participants identified and reported all of the spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiked chemicals.
 - (c) One regular participant identified and reported seven out of the eight spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the reported chemicals.
 - (d) Two false positive chemicals were reported.
 - (e) One non-scoring chemical was reported.
 - (f) The sample preparation and the evaluating laboratories submitted their report and are awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
 - (g) No score is assigned to one trial participant.
 - (h) There are eight As, one B and two Fs in the test score for the regular participants, including the two As of the assisting laboratories.
7. The final results for all of 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 a detailed follow-up report to the Secretariat 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-Ninth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

**FINAL RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

Laboratory (Participant Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Finland Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) (2)	8	8	A	-
India VERTOX Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment (4)	8	8	A	-
India Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins (8)	8	8	F	Reported a false positive chemical O
India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (6)	8	7	B	Insufficient data for the reported chemical G
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (3)	8	8	A	-
Pakistan Analytical Lab, DESTO Labs complex (9)	8	6	#	No score given for trial participation

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 02BLS: (A)	Isopropyl methylphosphonate
Sample 02BLS: (B)	Methylphosphonic acid
Sample 02BLS: (K)	Diisopropyl methylphosphonate
Sample 03BLS: (L)	O-Propyl propylthiophosphonate
Sample 04BLS: (E)	Ethyl 2-methoxyethyl methylphosphonate
Sample 04BLS: (G)	Bis(2-N,N-diisopropylaminoethyl)disulfide
Sample 04BLS: (H)	N,N-Diisopropylaminoethyl-2-methoxyethyl ether
Sample 05BLS: (J)	2-(N,N-Diisopropylamino)ethanol

Laboratory (Participant Code)	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Republic of Korea Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense Research Institute (10)	8	8	A	-
Romania Chemical Analysis and Testing Laboratory Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defence & Ecology (5)	8	8	F	Reported a non-scoring chemical N and a false positive chemical N
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, a division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd. (7)	8	8	A	-
Spain LAVEMA (Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas), INTA Campus La Marañosa (1)	8	8	A	-
Switzerland SPIEZ Laboratory	-	-	A	Sample preparation laboratory
United States of America Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center	-	-	A	Evaluating laboratory