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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS
OF THE FORTY-SECOND OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the Forty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from October 2017 to March 2018. 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 1, dated 18 April 2017));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 3, Revision 1, dated 18 April 2017));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 3, Revision 3, dated 7 April 2017)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 2, Revision 3, dated 7 April 2017)).
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. The DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Analytical Chemistry Department, France, assisted the Secretariat in preparing the test samples and the Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), VERTOX Laboratory, India, evaluated the results of the Forty-Second Proficiency Test.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 7 February 2018. 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 9 March 2018.



6. The principal results of the Forty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All 14 regular test participants submitted their analytical report within the test period.
 - (b) Seven regular participants identified and reported all of the spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiked chemicals.
 - (c) One false positive chemical was reported.
 - (d) Two non-scoring chemicals were reported.
 - (e) The sample preparation and evaluating laboratories submitted their reports and are awarded the maximum performance rating of “A”.
 - (f) There are nine As, three Bs, three Cs and one F in the final score for the test participants, including the two As for the two 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 Forty-Second Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

**FINAL RESULTS OF THE FORTY-SECOND
OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST**

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking¹ Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Brazil CTEx, Laboratório de Análises Químicas (05)	4	4	C	Spiking chemicals A-2 , F-1 and F-2 were not reported; reported one non-scoring chemical B-2
China Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences (08)	7	7	A	-
China The Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (02)	7	7	A	-
France DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Analytical Chemistry Department, France			A	Sample prep lab
India Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Centre for Analysis of Chemical Toxins (14)	6	6	F	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported; Reported false positive chemical D-2

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The spiking chemicals were as follows:

Sample 421:	(A-1)	Bis(2-chloroethyl)disulfide
Sample 421:	(A-2)	Divinylsulfide
Sample 422:	(B-1)	Thiodiglycol
Sample 424:	(D-1)	Thiodiglycol
Sample 426:	(F-1)	Divinylsulfone
Sample 426:	(F-2)	2-Hydroxyethyl vinyl sulfide
Sample 426:	(F-3)	1,2-bis(2-hydroxyethylsulfinyl)ethane

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking¹ Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (17)	6	5	C	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported; Insufficient data for reported spiking chemical B-1
India Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Vertox Laboratory			A	Evaluating lab
Netherlands TNO Defence, Security and Safety (03)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported
Norway FFI, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Protection Division (04)	7	7	A	-
Pakistan Analytical Lab, Defense Science Technology Organisation (19)	7	7	A	-
Romania Scientific Research Centre for CBRN Defense and Ecology, Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory (10)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported
Russian Federation Central Chemical Weapons Destruction Analytical Laboratory of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise, "State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry And Technology" (07)	7	7	A	-

Participant Laboratory Code	No. of Spiking¹ Chemicals Reported	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
Russian Federation Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of Military Research Centre (15)	7	7	A	-
South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, a division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd. (25)	6	6	B	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported
Turkey Public Health Institution of Turkey, Chemical Research Laboratories of Consumer Products (12)	6	5	C	Spiking chemical A-2 was not reported; Insufficient data for reported spiking chemical A-1
United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (09)	7	7	A	Reported one non-scoring chemical F-4