



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1204/2014

5 August 2014

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES
OF STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
28 – 31 OCTOBER 2014**

1. On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Argentina, the Director-General wishes to invite National Authorities from States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean to nominate participants for a regional training course for customs authorities on technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The training course will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 28 to 31 October 2014 and is intended for officials from the customs authorities who are involved in implementing this regime.
2. How the relevant customs authorities handle scheduled chemicals, and the engagement between customs authorities and National Authorities, has a practical impact on the implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention, and can play a key role in diminishing and eventually eliminating discrepancies between the quantities of scheduled chemicals declared by importing and exporting States Parties in respect of the same transfers. It is the expectation that through participation in the training course, the participants should be able to share the information within their respective authorities to ensure better coordination for the monitoring and reporting of trade in scheduled chemicals.
3. The purpose of the training course is to enhance the ability of customs officials from the participating States Parties to implement the transfers regime of the Convention. The specific objectives of the course are as follows:
 - (a) to impart substantive information regarding the provisions of the transfers regime of the Convention as well as other relevant sources of information and on-line databases;
 - (b) to provide an opportunity for hands-on practical exercises on identifying chemicals; and
 - (c) to provide a forum for the customs officers in the region to share experiences regarding issues in controlling the chemical trade.



4. Participants attending the training course will be expected to participate actively in the practical exercises and the discussions on the topics on which the course will focus. The provisional programme for the training course is included as Annex 1 to this Note.
5. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants for the training course. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee’s participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation arranged by the Secretariat are requested to indicate that as soon as possible, so that the Secretariat does not incur hotel cancellation fees. In any case, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of any accommodation it has not arranged.
6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, participants are expected to arrive **no earlier than Monday, 27 October 2014** and to depart **no later than Saturday, 1 November 2014**. The Secretariat’s agreement is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the training course or that result from unauthorised changes in travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if necessary, arrange accommodation at reduced rates.
7. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Argentina. When applying for any required visas, they should present the Embassy or Consulate of Argentina with a copy of the acceptance letter from the OPCW in addition to any other documents required to obtain a visa for Argentina, taking into account the established rules and procedures for each country. Participants are required to approach the Embassy or Consulate of Argentina immediately after receiving the acceptance letter issued by the OPCW.
8. The training course will be conducted in English and Spanish and interpretation will be provided between these two languages. All participants are therefore expected to have a good written and oral command of one of these two languages.
9. Interested National Authorities are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure, in particular, to provide all the contact details it requests. Completed nomination forms for all national participants should be forwarded by the relevant National Authority to the Secretariat. The completed forms should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 306 3535 and +31 (0)70 416 3228, or by e-mail to ipb@opcw.org. All nominations must be received by the

Secretariat **no later than Sunday, 7 September 2014**. National Authorities are kindly requested to note that the Secretariat will not accept any nominations for sponsorship that are submitted after that date. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the training course.

10. Additional information about the training course may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Kesrat Sukasam and Mr Maharage Ananda Perera, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3629 and +31 (0)70 416 3818 respectively.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Nomination Form
- Annex 3: National Authority Endorsement Form

Annex 1

**REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Tuesday, 28 October 2014</i>	
09:00 - 09:15	Registration
09:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony followed by group photo
10:00 – 10:30	History of the use of chemical weapons and introduction to the Convention
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Introduction to the OPCW
11:30 – 12:00	Programmes of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division
12:00 – 12:45	Scheduled chemicals to be monitored under the Convention: - Basic chemistry - Chemicals listed in the schedules - The main uses of selected scheduled chemicals
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Transfer provisions of the Convention and trade in chemicals in the region
14:30 – 15:00	The role of the National Authority and its interaction with customs authorities
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Exercise 1: Group discussions of import/export scenarios
17:00 – 17:30	Introduction to identifying Convention-related chemicals
<i>Wednesday, 29 October 2014</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Using the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization (WCO) to identify Convention-related chemicals: - WCO recommendations - Possible future amendments to the Harmonized System
09:30 – 10:00	Identifying Convention-related chemicals: The OPCW Handbook on Chemicals and the OPCW on-line scheduled chemicals database: - Introduction - Demonstration
10:00 – 10:30	Identifying Convention-related chemicals: The use of other information tools/databases by customs officers and customs laboratories: - The Green Customs Guide ¹ - Brochure on the most commonly traded chemicals - Other useful databases and websites
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>

¹ The *Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements*, a publication from the United Nations Environmental Programme.

Time	Activity
11:00 – 11:30	Identifying Convention-related chemicals: Analysis of suspect chemicals: - On-site analysis - The role of customs laboratories - The OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD)
11:30 – 12:00	Round-table discussion on the identification of chemicals
12:00 – 13:00	Exercise 2: Identifying chemicals: Hands-on exercise related to the identification of chemicals
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Exercise 2: Identifying chemicals (continued): Summary of Exercise 2
14:30 – 15:15	Common problems in reporting imports and exports: - Discrepancies in import/export reporting under the Convention - Free ports and free zones - Transshipments and transits of chemicals - Shipping chemicals: country of origin vs. country of dispatch - The OPCW decision on voluntary guidelines on imports and exports ²
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:45 – 17:30	Exercise 3: Import/export scenarios Group discussion of scenarios Summary of Exercise 3
Thursday, 30 October 2014	
09:00 – 11:30	Visit to Argentina port
11:30 – 12:30	Practical issues in controlling the chemical trade: - Import/export licensing - Controlling transshipments and transits - Customs-related software - Risk assessment - The illegal trade in chemicals: methods used to smuggle chemicals - Case studies
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00– 15:00	Round-table discussion on common problems encountered and the practical issues involved in controlling the trade in chemicals
15:00 - 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Training of trainers: adult learning, presentation skills
16:15 – 17:00	Selecting groups (6 groups) for preparing presentations and training plans on the following subjects: - Licensing procedures for scheduled chemicals - Identification of scheduled chemicals - Risk assessment and customs software (practical issues in controlling the chemical trade) - Control of transits and transshipments (common problems in reporting imports/exports) - Transfer provisions of the Convention - Engagement with the National Authority

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Guidelines Regarding Declaration of Import and Export Data for Schedule 2 and 3 Chemicals (C-13/DEC.4, dated 3 December 2008).

Time	Activity
<i>Friday, 31 October 2014</i>	
09:00 – 10:30	Preparing presentations and training plans on the assigned subjects
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Presentations by each group on the assigned topic (15 minutes each)
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Clinic facilitated by the OPCW: Representatives of States Parties present practical issues in relation to controlling trade in chemicals
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Conclusion of the training course: summing up and evaluation

Annex 2

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NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form by **Sunday, 7 September 2014** to:
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31 (0)70 306 3535, +31 (0)70 416 3228; e-mail: ipb@opcw.org

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS.

1	National Authority making the nomination			
2	Family name of nominee*			
3	First name(s)*			
4	Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
5	Citizenship			
6	Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Passport number			
8	Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
9	Expiry date	Day	Month	Year
10	Place of issue			
11	Areas of expertise relevant to the purpose of the training course (please describe)			
12	Employer			
13	Position			
14	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street		
		Number	Post code	
		City		
		Country		
15	E-mail address			
16	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		
		Mobile		
17	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
		Work		
18	Is sponsorship required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

** For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.

Annex 3

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ENDORSEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

I, _____, Head/Chief Coordinator of the National Authority of the State Party of _____, on behalf of the Government of _____, hereby endorse the nomination form of Mr/Ms _____, holding the position/designation of _____ in the Office/Division/Branch of _____ as indicated in the attached nomination form for participation in the regional training course for customs authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean on the technical aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28 –31 October 2014.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official seal of the organisation:

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