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5 August 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the States Parties of the results of the Fifty-Fifth Official OPCW Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) from April to August 2024. 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 17043.¹ 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 4, Revision 1, dated 11 April 2024));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT02 (Issue 4, Revision 0, dated 11 April 2024));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of the Results of OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT03 (Issue 4, Revision 3, dated 11 April 2024)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/PT04 (Issue 3, Revision 4, dated 11 April 2024)).
2. In order to retain their designation, designated laboratories must 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 sample preparation laboratory was Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment, Switzerland, while the evaluating laboratory was the Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical & Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore.
4. Before the closing date, 14 Member States nominated 16 laboratories, including the two assisting laboratories, for participation in the Fifty-Fifth Official OPCW Proficiency Test. One of the nominated laboratories requested to be withdrawn from test participation after the sample dispatch, which was accepted by the Test Coordinator. One of the nominated laboratories was a trial participant. Accordingly, in the test there were 12 regular participants, one trial participant, and the two assisting laboratories.

¹ Standard ISO/IEC 17043 of the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission.



5. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed on 16 July 2024 at a hybrid meeting (held online and at the OPCW Main Building) between Secretariat staff and the test participants. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.
6. The evaluating laboratory submitted its final evaluation report to the Secretariat on 1 August 2024.
7. The principal results of the Fifty-Fifth Official OPCW Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) All regular test participants submitted their analytical reports within the test period.
 - (b) Four regular participants identified and reported all of the spiking chemicals with sufficient analytical data for all of the spiking chemicals.
 - (c) Two regular participants identified and reported seven out of the eight spiking chemicals with sufficient data.
 - (d) One participant identified and reported more chemicals than they had missed.
 - (e) Five regular participants identified less than half of the seven spiking chemicals.
 - (f) The trial participant did not submit a report.
 - (g) Eight non-scoring chemicals were reported.
 - (h) The sample preparation laboratory submitted its report and was awarded the maximum performance rating of A.
 - (i) The evaluating laboratory submitted its report and was awarded the maximum performance rating of A.
 - (j) There are six As, two Bs, one C, and five Ds, for the 12 regular participants and the two assisting laboratories.
8. The final results for all of the laboratories participating in the test are presented in the table in the Annex hereto.
9. 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: Results of the Fifty-Fifth Official OPCW Proficiency Test

Annex

RESULTS OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH OFFICIAL OPCW PROFICIENCY TEST

Participant Code Laboratory	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported²	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
22 Australia Defence Science and Technology Group	8	8	A	-
14 Brazil Chemical Analysis Laboratory of the Brazilian Navy Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Radiological Defense Centre	4	3	D	Chemicals B, C, G and H were not reported; Data for chemical D was not sufficient for scoring
01 India Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology	7	7	B	Chemical F was not reported
16 Italy Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency, Antifraud Directorate, Central Laboratory	4	1	D	Chemicals B, D, F, and G were not reported; Data for chemicals A, C and E were not sufficient for scoring
29 Kenya Government Chemist Department	4	1	D	Chemicals B, E, F and G were not reported; Data for chemicals A, C and D were not sufficient for scoring

² The spiking chemicals were as follows:

- A Ethyl S-2-diisopropylaminoethyl methylphosphonothiolate
- B S-2-Diisopropylaminoethyl methylphosphonothiolate
- C Ethyl methylphosphonate
- D Methylphosphonic acid
- E Bis(2-N,N-diisopropylaminoethyl)disulfide
- F 2-(N,N-Diisopropylamino)ethanesulfonic acid
- G O-Ethyl methylphosphonothioate
- H 2-(N,N-Diisopropylamino)ethanol

Participant Code Laboratory	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported²	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
15 Malaysia Department of Chemistry	-	-	-	Withdrew from test
02 Malaysia Science and Technology Research Institute for Defence	-	-	-	Trial participant
11 Morocco National Laboratory for Scientific and Technical Police	6	0	D	Chemicals B and F were not reported; Data for chemicals A, C, E, D, G and H were not sufficient for scoring.
10 Norway Laboratory for Analysis of Chemical Threat Agents, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment	8	8	A	-
Singapore Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical & Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories	-	-	A	Evaluation assistance
26 Slovakia Section of Chemical Laboratories, Military unit	7	6	C	Chemical D was not reported; Data for chemical E was not sufficient for scoring
05 South Africa Protechnik Laboratories	7	7	B	Chemical D was not reported
Switzerland Spiez Laboratory, Swiss NBC Defence Establishment	-	-	A	Sample preparation assistance
07 Türkiye Chemical Warfare Agents Identification & Verification Laboratory	8	8	A	-

Participant Code Laboratory	No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported²	No. of Chemicals Scored	Rating	Comments
19 Türkiye University of Health Sciences, Department of Medical CBRN Defense	7	0	D	Chemical F was not reported; Data for chemicals A, C, E, D, B, G and H were not sufficient for scoring
28 United States of America Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM)	8	8	A	-

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