
Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN

Anatomy of a Chemical Plant Site

1. Introduction

The future Chemical Weapons Convention will introduce the concept of routine verification and challenge inspections in the chemical industry engaged in producing organic chemicals. The most relevant parts of the chemical industry in this context are those which produce highly developed organic specialities such as plant protection agents and pharmaceutical active ingredients. Here we find complicated and sensitive technical installations as well as intricate development and production organizations.

This paper tries to present and elucidate the substance and the structures of a representative plant site inspectors might be confronted with. Not all the facilities to be found today are on the same level of technological development, but the basic technical substance and the methods employed will be the same everywhere.

The paper is intended as a common background for the discussions on various verification regimes for the chemical industry. Different assumptions can be made regarding, e.g., what should be the basis for declarations and inspections, and the consequences of the assumptions then evaluated using the presented hypothetical plant site as a model.

2. General Remarks

The hypothetical plant site presented here as an example is mainly dedicated to the production of agrochemical active ingredients and formulated products as well as pharmaceutical specialities. It is part of