

Samples from alleged use:

Procedures for collecting, packaging, documenting and transporting suspect chemical agent samples from the field to a laboratory for analysis must preserve the integrity and identity of the samples in order to provide credibility. Samples containing CW agents or other routine chemicals can be divided into environmental (aerosols or vapors, liquids, soil, vegetation, used ordnance etc.,) and biomedical samples (urine, blood, sputum, organs, tissues etc., from acutely ill or dead casualties. Transporting such samples requires proper packaging to ensure the safety of personnel who may handle the samples in transit. In suspected use situations, background samples from "clean" areas should be taken by identical methods to provide a baseline. Personnel collecting the samples should be wearing appropriate protective equipment.

a) Environmental samples:

Methods for collecting environmental samples will depend on the sample type and the conditions affecting the collection, e.g., soil type, weather, age, etc. The samples must be documented, preserved and transported and require the same assurances of authenticity as the declared specimens. A suggested sampling kit (Annex 1) provides a starting point for the design of a kit to be assembled by an Inspectorate for the collection of environmental samples. Sample collection methods are illustrated by the following excerpts:

Liquid aerosol/vapor samples: An electric or hand pump should be used with care taken to record the volume of the sample and the type of collection tube employed.

Vegetation samples: collect material from several locations within the area taking care to preserve surface deposits of dust etc. The sample size should be several leaves or handfuls of grass. Place the sample in a bag containing all pertinent collection information and seal.

Soil samples: Collect samples from areas stained or otherwise discolored. Collect similar samples beyond the perimeter of the suspect area. The sample volume is approximately that of a cigarette pack laying on its side. With a small scoop, place the specimen in a bag, include complete documentation and seal.