

required. The methods have to be tested together with analytical methods to establish their relevance to the verification.

Reference laboratory and reference samples

The Group identified the need for authentic reference samples of chemical warfare agents to be used by the inspectors and designated verification laboratories. The preparation of the reference compounds is a critical issue which will affect the universal confidence of the results obtained. Thus this activity should be controlled by the Technical Secretariat. This can be achieved by concentrating the task to a laboratory owned by the TS or to laboratories designated and supervised by the TS. The present rolling text does not allow the synthesis and transfers of CW agents for reference purposes. Toxin standards may pose difficulties as they often are mixtures of closely related compounds, especially macromolecular toxins.

Calibration of instruments is a technically critical issue which should be done by the inspectors themselves. This can be performed with non-toxic calibration standards.

In order to secure the general uniformity and reliability of analyses performed by the inspectors the need to also have internationally agreed and validated operating procedures and databases was stressed.

Databases

Database requirements will be varied and numerous. Since a component of the information processing system must have been designed and functioning when the Convention enters into force and since the specifications of the system depend on the verification procedures, there is a need for research and development programs to develop illustrative verification procedures and also to begin investigating the structure and operational characteristics of the information processing system as well as the size, content, and structure of the database associated with such a system.