

15. Sampling and Sample-taking Procedures

The sample-taking was performed by company personnel, in the presence of inspectors, at the sampling points that had been agreed on during the negotiation of the Facility Attachment. In each case, two samples were taken - one for off-site analysis and one to be retained by the company. These samples were:

- feed chemical (Dinitro) being transferred to the reaction vessel;
- production in reaction vessel at conclusion of production process;
- formulated product.

The company also agreed to:

- use of a vapour monitor at the facility to check for the absence of Schedule [1] chemicals. The vapour monitor was also adapted to respond to Dinitro (see Annex 3);
- taking of air samples at the facility during the production process;
- sampling the water that was used to flush the reactor vessel after the product had been transferred to the storage tank.

16. Handling of Samples

The handling of samples was negotiated as part of the Facility Attachment. The inspectors supervised both the sample-taking and the handling of samples on-site. The samples to be analysed off-site were placed in a metal storage container fitted with a lock and seal. This was taken by "safe-hand" to the agreed analytical laboratory (MRL), and signed over to the custody of a senior government scientist who was responsible (under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act) for the security of the samples and the subsequently obtained analytical data.

17. Analysis of Samples

Reference samples of food chemical (Dinitro), product (Trifluralin), and formulated product were provided by the company during the negotiation of the Facility Attachment. This enabled the analytical chemists at MRL to develop and/or refine the appropriate methods for the analysis of the declared chemicals.