
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Inspection Methodology for Challenge Inspections in Industrial Chemical Plants

Introduction

An important principle for the conduct of challenge inspections is for the inspectors to apply the least intrusive verification methods possible while retaining the capability to collect all information that is required to demonstrate compliance or non-compliance. Approaches of implementing this principle are, e.g., the concepts of "managed access" and of "alternative measures". In this paper, another such approach is presented for consideration: a layered (or phased, step-by-step) inspection approach. This approach was developed and partly tested in a trial challenge inspection at an industrial plant carried out in the German Democratic Republic. A report on this trial has been submitted in another working paper. This working paper is a more detailed discussion of the concept of a "layered inspection methodology".

The "layered inspection methodology" consists of four phases with increasing intrusion triggered by the results of the less-intrusive inspection phases together with an assessment of these results in the light of the circumstances and particularities encountered. That was considered to allow an inspection team to develop its actual inspection strategy depending on the specific situation at the site. Consideration was also given to the possibility that the plant management, in case of a violation of treaty provisions, had implemented a counter-inspection strategy in order to cover-up clandestine activities.

In the following phase-by-phase description of the concept, several elements and procedures of a challenge inspection (such as initial briefing, location detection, site securing, etc.) are ignored. For a description of a full-scale inspection, these missing elements and procedures would have to be added.