

Handling of authentic samples

63. The samples, which the inspection team dispatches to off-site laboratories, must be handled according to a specified procedure in which their identity is concealed from the laboratories which analyse them. At the same time the integrity of the samples has to be secured. This involves several stages including transport to the Technical Secretariat utilizing approved means, splitting of samples, preparation of necessary control samples, recoding and record keeping of all samples, transport to 2-3 verification laboratories, decoding of the results, and informing the relevant section of the Technical Secretariat of the results.

Training of inspectors in analytical chemical tasks

64. The Group emphasized the importance of training, both in sampling and analytical tasks, required during on-site inspections. In sampling, both the strategy and methods have to be covered. In analytical methods, both the technique and operating procedures of instruments are important.

Accreditation of laboratories

65. If the laboratory network has to be operational when the Convention enters into force, the accreditation process for laboratories should be started by the Preparatory Commission.

66. The accreditation procedure may comprise the following steps:

- Sending a detailed questionnaire to the laboratory seeking accreditation.
- Inspection of the laboratory by a group of assessors.
- Analysis by the laboratory of proficiency samples.
- Evaluation of the quality assurance programme (personnel, facilities, instruments, procedures, safety rules) of the laboratory.

67. Laboratories can be accredited for all tasks or for selected purposes. A specific time period should be set for the accreditation (e.g. 3-5 years).

Technical support for the Organization

68. To support the Organization, accredited laboratories may be involved in developing new equipment. Equipment may also be developed commercially or under contracts financed by the Organization or by States Parties.

Maintenance and storage of verification equipment and protective means

69. The maintenance and storage of verification equipment and protective means would be the responsibility of the Technical Secretariat, but can be assigned under contract to accredited laboratories.