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A well-organized document storage data base would facilitate the management of all the documents in the form of declarations, reports, facility attachments and so on, and reduce the personnel required for supporting administrative work, and thereby the overall cost of verification.

A time-scheduling system is a tool for work planning to ensure that all activities take place at the proper time and that personnel are available for the job. The future convention will specify a number of time-limits applying to different activities. If all agreed-upon timetables for all activities are entered into the data base, the data base can be used for planning timetables so that, for example, the inspections will not pile up in certain months. Those routine inspections that do not have a predetermined date could be planned so as to fit into slack parts of the timetable.

After entry into force of the convention, facility attachments will be prepared in accordance with model agreements for each declared facility. They will state all necessary points for verification, which instruments are to be used and where they will be installed, and so on. Each facility attachment, or relevant part of it, could be entered into the verification data base to serve as a check-list of all tasks to be performed during the inspection. A facility-specific list of all documents, equipment, spare parts, etc., needed during inspection, could be generated. The inspection report could be written on a text-processing system and stored into a text data base.

Nearly all the data collected during the verification of the implementation of the convention will have to be evaluated. This evaluation will be the most important task of inspectors, and a very laborious one too. The data will have to be checked for consistency with the earlier agreements, declarations and inspection reports. This may necessitate going through a large number of different documents. Here the capabilities of the data base for combination of data could be extensively used. Samples collected during inspection and not analysed on site will be sent to the laboratory at headquarters or to other accredited laboratories for analysis. The data base could aid in choosing the particular laboratory, using the information stored on available facilities.

Using the sample codes, the accredited laboratory could enter the results obtained by different analytical techniques directly into the sample data base. The system could compare the results obtained from control samples with the actual contents of the samples and indicate any inconsistency. The procedure would guarantee impartial analyses and protect proprietary information, since the analytical laboratories would not know the target from which the samples had been collected, nor by whom.

The accredited laboratories analysing the verification samples could use the analytical part of the data base containing the identification data and standard operating procedures. These data could also be made available to the laboratories of the national authorities to allow use of identical reference data needed, for example, to analyse duplicate samples collected during inspections. The sample and reaction data bases would be available to the personnel of the international inspectorate on a "need to know" basis only. However, the accredited laboratories should be able to enter their analytical results in the sample data base on "write only" basis through the sample codes.