

7. The inspection team

The trial inspection demonstrated the need for extensive expertise and training in chemical engineering (with background in processing, records audit and chemistry of the declared chemicals), chemical production, and analytical chemistry. The minimum number of inspectors is six based on the team working in three pairs on equipment, records and samples. These inspectors would be provided with interpreters, and where necessary, assistants. The number could be increased depending on the size and complexity of the facility to be inspected. The team size should be based on three to five days at the site for the routine inspection. (If interpreters are needed, substantially more time may be necessary.) Three days should be the minimum duration of the initial visit, which is of greatest importance for establishing an inspection plan and the facility agreement.

Ideally, the same team that negotiates the facility agreement should conduct the routine inspection. However, the inspectors will gain considerable expertise and background with each inspection.

Consideration should be given to establishing an inspector training programme during the period prior to entry into force of the convention.

8. Confidentiality

Protection of confidential business information must be guaranteed to the maximum extent possible consistent with verification requirements. Substantial amounts of proprietary information would have to be disclosed to inspectors during an inspection. A system of classification of confidential information must be established and the use of this information must be restricted within the Technical Secretariat organizations on a strict need to know basis. Methods to protect against unauthorized disclosure and to assess responsibility in the event such disclosure occur must be developed. Penalties and liabilities for financial damages in the event of unauthorized disclosure will be required for implementation of the Convention.

9. Areas requiring further work

This first trial inspection has made clear the need to conduct additional national trial inspections in the chemical industry since this is a learning process and many refinements must be made in the procedures. Among the areas requiring further work are the following:

- testing at another Schedule [2] facility of inspection procedures that have been revised and improved based on the findings of this and other States' NTIs;
- testing of the refined procedures on more complex processes;
- efforts to gain insight into the task of monitoring a Schedule [2] facility that produces a chemical that is a mustard gas precursor or a VX precursor.
- testing of procedures that were omitted during the first NTI (for example, notification and escort procedures).