

Toxicological data collection

55. In case relevant toxicological data are not available from other sources, the Technical Secretariat may have to contract a toxicological laboratory to evaluate toxic properties of chemicals, especially the ones that may be under consideration for addition to the schedules.

Certification of analytical methods

56. New methods developed by any laboratory may be validated by a number of accredited laboratories by international collaborative tests arranged by the Technical Secretariat. If a method proves to be acceptable, the Technical Secretariat will certify it.

Quality control and quality assurance

57. Verification may rest on laboratory findings and analytical results obtained from samples acquired during inspections. To ensure that these critical activities have the required credibility, accuracy and reliability, a quality assurance programme must be developed for each accredited laboratory. The system must produce data that is scientifically sound and thoroughly documented.

58. There are certain basic types of quality assurance techniques that should be considered in order to assure that the laboratory data developed is high quality with accurate results reported. Some activities are specific to the instrumentation, some to the analytical method, and others to the general laboratory quality assurance requirements. Each of these types of quality assurance is essential to assure the generation of accurate, precise and reliable data.

59. It will be the responsibility of the Technical Secretariat to assure the reliability of the accredited laboratory network and on-site analytical activities. Quality assessment must be an integral part of the accreditation procedure for laboratories and be carried out continuously thereafter. The main assessment methods are laboratory audits and proficiency tests.

60. Quality assurance standards are required for both on-site and off-site analysis.

61. The quality assurance activities for the network of accredited laboratories should be carried out by a special division in the Technical Secretariat. This division should also supervise the quality assurance programmes in the Technical Secretariat's laboratory.

62. The Group recommends that work should be started as soon as possible to create the quality assurance programmes and the plans for their implementation.