

88 chemicals not containing phosphorus and not included in the schedules were reported. The spiking chemicals are marked with an asterisk. The reference results obtained by Australia immediately after sample preparation are shown in column 15 (laboratory 15) and those obtained three months later are shown in column 16.

All laboratories identified the chemicals used as starting materials in the synthesis (trimethyl phosphite, trichloroacetaldehyde (chloral), and toluene) and the planned end product, the pesticide dichlorvos. In addition to these main compounds a number of their impurities resulting from the technical grade feed chemicals were identified.

Only two laboratories reported chemicals belonging to Schedule 1, the mixture of isomeric octyl methylphosphonofluoridates. All laboratories, except one, identified dimethyl methylphosphonate, 6 laboratories identified the mixture of isomeric dioctyl methylphosphonates and 3 laboratories identified the mixture of isomeric methyl octyl methylphosphonates. Two laboratories reported detection of alkyl alkyl methylphosphonates but were not able to identify the actual alkyl groups. In addition to the octyl derivatives, four additional methylphosphonates and methylphosphonic acid were reported.

## 7. Discussion

International cooperation between laboratories in the form of interlaboratory comparison tests is important for method development and for gaining experience in the verification tasks required by the Convention. The objectives for these tests should be clearly defined beforehand to concentrate the efforts of the participating laboratories on a limited number of problems at a time and to avoid their being unnecessarily burdened with time-consuming tasks outside their normal duties. The testing activities may be planned to proceed from relatively simple tasks to gradually more complicated ones. Furthermore the analytical tasks required of the laboratories should be realistic but may not be accurate simulations of real situations.

The increase in the number of samples demanded greater effort than was originally anticipated except for those laboratories that used simple