

To ensure mixing of the fortified blood samples, the tubes were shaken thoroughly for 2-3 minutes. They were then kept for 2 hours in an upright position at room temperature (approximately 22°C), since it was assumed that the samples collected in the field would likely be kept at a non-refrigerated temperature for approximately 1-2 hours. The fortified samples were then transferred to a refrigerator until collected by the escort en route to the analytical laboratory. A similar procedure was followed for the fortified urine samples.

The sampling and fortification of control samples took place on 12 April 1984. Most sampling in the field took place within a short time prior to this date (i.e., 29-30 March, 2-3 April, 5 April, 6-7 April, 9-10 April); although some field sampling also took place after this date (i.e., 16-17 April).

It was decided that the fortified samples would be held at the home base and picked up by the escort en route to the laboratory. The other alternative of taking small quantities of toxins abroad to be added to control samples at the base camp was rejected, largely due to the legal/administrative problems associated with transporting toxic materials even in small quantities. Furthermore, it was considered desirable to collect blood and urine samples for control purposes from a subject removed from the region and who would be readily-available for any follow-on action if desired.