

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Inspections

The Role of the Canadian National Authority

- Ensuring that Canada lives up to its obligations under the CWC.
- Responsible for the support of CWC Routine and Challenge Inspections in Canada.
- Ensuring that the rights of Canadians and Canadian companies are respected.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

- May be carried out at any facility or part of any facility that has declared activities exceeding the relevant OPCW verification thresholds.
- Purpose is to confirm the correctness of the Declarations that have been made.
- May be launched on short notice by the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- A Facility Agreement will be negotiated to provide the basis for Routine Inspections at Schedule 1 and 2 facilities.

CHALLENGE INSPECTIONS

- May be requested by any CWC State Party which has concerns about another State Party's compliance with the Convention.
- The Challenge Inspection will go ahead if it is approved by the OPCW Executive Council composed of States Parties, on a rotating basis.
- The challenged State Party has the opportunity to provide clarification relating to the concerns of the challenging State Party.
- Not limited to declared facilities, may be carried out at any place on national territory.

CONDUCT OF INSPECTIONS

- The provisions of the Convention lay down very definite rules for the conduct of inspections.
- The inspection team may only gather information that is relevant to the objectives of the Convention and must ensure the confidentiality of data it may collect in the process.

