

It is worth mentioning that this Handbook does not deal with the procedures and criteria leading to the initiation of an investigation. This aspect of an investigation was addressed in Section II of the final report of the United Nations Group of Consultant Experts; and this issue is still very much a subject for negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament with respect to a future chemical weapons convention. The focus of this study is on what investigators should bear in mind when called upon to implement a decision to conduct an investigation, including the procedures that should be followed and the equipment that might be needed. So as to avoid the repetition involved in outlining procedures and equipment for a variety of circumstances or scenarios, the text implicitly addresses what would likely be the most difficult situation - the investigation of alleged incidents in remote areas. In other circumstances, the procedures and equipment would be tailored accordingly.