
Figure 1 Definition of verification

**“Verification is the establishment of truth or correctness of (something), by examination or demonstration”
(Concise Oxford Dictionary)**

No single issue in the 1980s is likely to be of greater significance in international arms control and disarmament negotiations than *verification*. Particularly in an era of increased suspicion and uncertainty, nations are unlikely to accede to treaties affecting their own national security without some adequate means of assurance that other signatories will, in fact, be living up to the terms of the agreement. In simple terms, *verification* is the means by which such assurance is gained. Whether it is through the use of consultative mechanisms, photo-reconnaissance satellites or on-site inspections, the ability to agree upon an effective system of verification can mean the success or failure in the negotiation of an arms control agreement.