

2.5.2 Sample coding and documentation

Each sample should receive a unique identification code, and all information should be recorded in a sample documentation form with corresponding coding. A three-page form has been drawn up for use by the sampling team and is shown as annex 1 to this report. The following information should be recorded in the form:

- On the first page, information on the sampling procedure is entered, including the reason for sampling, an indication of the priority or importance of the samples, description of samples and sampling site, sampling methods and results of field analyses.
- On the second page, a sketch of the sampling site should be drawn, indicating topography, any bomb craters observed and wind direction. The positions of the sampling sites should also be indicated on this sketch.
- The third page should be filled in if information on the attack is available. Reports from eyewitnesses, casualties, effects on vegetation and meteorological data such as temperature, wind and precipitation since the attack should be entered here. If there are casualties, reports from medical inspections should also be entered.

Two copies of the form should be made, one of which should accompany the samples to the Technical Secretariat, while the other should be kept by the sampling team.

2.5.3 Sample preservation

All samples should be treated as soon as possible after collection, to ensure that the chemical warfare agents are still present on arrival at the laboratory. The appropriate treatment varies according to the origin of the samples. To ensure the integrity of the samples, in some situations, no treatment is desirable. Sample preservation