Outline of Inspections under the Chemical Weapons Convention

1. On-site Inspections under the Chemical Weapons Convention

The OPCW Technical Secretariat conducts on-site inspections for the purpose of confirming State Parties’ fulfillment of their obligations under the Convention; more specifically, the inspections aim to confirm that (i) chemical weapons and production facilities thereof are destroyed as required, and (ii) activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, e.g. protective, industrial and medical purposes, are undertaken as declared (chemicals are not diverted for chemical weapons). In particular, inspections targeting industrial facilities where chemicals also applicable for civil use are handled are generally called "industrial inspections."

Inspections are also conducted where there are doubts or concerns as to the possibility of violation of the Convention, including an inspection at the request of any State Party (challenge inspection) and an inspection in the case of the alleged use of chemical weapons.
2. Process of Industrial Inspection

- Notification of inspection
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- Informing the Secretariat of the receipt of the notification of inspection
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- Entry of the inspection team into the country
  ↓
- Inspection of the instruments used by the inspection team
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- Arrival of the inspection team at the plant site
  ↓
- Pre-inspection briefing (about the outline of the plant site)
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- On-site inspection
  ↓
- Preparation of draft facility agreement (Schedule 2 chemicals)
  ↓
- End of inspection
  ↓
- Preparation of preliminary report
  ↓
- Inspection of the instruments used by the inspection team
  ↓
- Departure of the inspection team from the country
  ↓
- Formulation of final report
  ↓
- Notification by the Secretariat of completion of inspection

Within 1 hour

Within 12 hours

Within 3 hours

Within 24 hours

Schedule 2 chemicals: within 96 hours
Schedule 3 chemicals: within 24 hours
DOC/PSF: within 24 hours

Schedule 2 chemical: 48 hours before arrival
Schedule 3 chemical: 120 hours before arrival
DOC/PSF: 120 hours before arrival