

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

