



ICCA support for the CWC verification regime – OCPF plant sites

Throughout the negotiation and subsequent entry into force of the CWC, the Convention received the full unconditional support of the global chemical industry, represented by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

ICCA wishes to reaffirm that its membership remains committed to and involved in implementing the CWC at national and international level. Overall we consider that the CWC has so far balanced the necessity of industry verification with the need to protect legitimate industry interests. With the present note ICCA wishes to clarify its position regarding inspections of OCPF plant sites.

ICCA particularly endorses the logic of the CWC's verification system, which provides guidelines for eliminating the world's chemical weapons stocks and CW related activities, and identifying risks of CW production. The CWC's multiple schedules; varied inspection aims and degrees of intrusiveness, and different thresholds reflect a strategic approach to achieving these core objectives. Industry welcomes progress towards universality of membership in the CWC and the advancement of industry verification. Thus far, industry verification has been marked by practicality and flexibility. By design, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has begun to inspect plant sites producing unscheduled discrete organic chemicals, the activity accounting for the majority of declarable and inspectable States Parties. ICCA strongly supports that these inspections extend the geographic reach of industry verification and engage new States Parties, thus contributing to a more balanced spread of inspections (equitable geographical distribution tied to a weighting factor regarding the number of sites in a given country). ICCA has always held the view that all plant sites should be open for verification since every site has an equal potential for misuse, but that the chemical industry has nothing to hide.

Industry encourages verification consistent with the specific treaty mandate and measures on these plant sites. We also anticipate continued practicality and flexibility during these inspections but wish to underscore the particular significance of an informed inspectorate and risk-based plant site selection criteria to effect verification that addresses the genuine and greatest risks to the convention's non-proliferation objectives as set out in the provisions of the Verification Annex. ICCA therefore underscores the importance of the full implementation of the Treaty, particularly of article VII obligations (national implementation measures). ICCA recognises the particular difficulty in developing risk criteria on the basis of declarations and, therefore, strongly stresses that the goal must remain the achievement of equitable distribution of inspections. We would welcome a constructive dialogue with the organisation how this can be achieved.

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