



## Information on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

### Inspection Requirements for the Production of Discrete Organic Chemicals

In accordance with the CWC, the production of DOC/PSF chemicals may not only be subject to declaration, but also subject to inspection. Such an inspection is required if a plant site produces annually > 200 t DOC, including PSF chemicals.

These DOC inspections have been conducted by Inspection Teams of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemicals Weapons (OPCW) based in The Hague since May 2000. The inspection is accompanied by a national Escort Team that is responsible for both, the safeguarding of the Inspection Team's rights and the preservation of the rights of the company concerned. In the Federal Republic of Germany the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) is in charge of this task.

The OPCW uses a fixed procedure to select the plant sites to be inspected on the basis of the declarations. Presently, an average number of 40 DOC inspections per year is envisaged with a total number of about 5,500 inspectable DOC plant sites world-wide.

Although the probability of receiving such an inspection may be relatively low, BAFA wants to inform all DOC plants in the Federal Republic about these inspections. After a short time, BAFA will send a detailed Inspection Guide to all companies concerned.

Inspection aim: is to verify that the data provided in the declarations are plausible and no Schedule 1 chemicals are produced in the plant site for non-permitted purposes.

Notification: The inspection is notified by the OPCW to BAFA not later than 120 hours prior to the arrival of the Inspection Team at the Federal Republic of Germany. In order to ensure a smooth and speedy conduct of the inspection, BAFA will immediately inform the respective company and send one of its staff members for preparation.

Duration: The actual inspection time is 24 hours. In addition, there are a maximum of 3 hours for a pre-inspection briefing and a maximum of 24 hours for debriefing. The inspection activities take place during the regular business hours.

Tentative course of the inspection: After the arrival of the Inspection Team at the plant site there will be a pre-inspection briefing (e.g. Monday 2 - 4 p.m.). A company representative will give an overview of the general activities of the company. Afterwards, the actual inspection time will begin (e.g. Monday 4 p. m. to Tuesday 4 p.m. taking into account the company's working hours). During this period of time the Inspection Team is to get an overview of the declared DOC/PSF plants in order to be able to accomplish its inspection tasks. During the debriefing (e.g. Wednesday 8 - 12 a.m.) the Inspection Team submits its findings in the form of an inspection report, followed by its departure.

Protection of confidential information: It cannot be excluded that the Inspection Team gains knowledge of confidential information/company's know-how in the course of its inspection activities. Therefore, the company should check beforehand which areas of the DOC/PSF plants must be considered sensitive. The CWC contains certain rules for such cases in order to guarantee the protection of confidential information. When preparing the inspection, BAFA will discuss with the company which measures must be taken to protect such information.

National legal basis: governing the course of the inspection, rights and duties of the company concerned, of the Inspection Team and the Escort Team is the Law Implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWÜAG) of 02.08.1994 (Federal Gazette I, p. 1954).

For further information contact BAFA under:

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