

Seventh session
Geneva, 14 July - 1 August 1997

Working paper submitted by the Friend of the Chair
on Compliance Measures

The Principles of Facility Declaration Formats

Scope of the information

When an activity on a site triggers a facility declaration, the declaration must encompass the following elements of the facility and of the site in which it is contained:

- a) The triggered activity in the facility to be declared.
- b) Research, development, testing and production activities carried out in the triggered facility or elsewhere on the site, that is concerned with microbial or other biological agents or toxins, or related activities, with special reference to
 - biodefence work (including any defence work on toxins)
 - work on listed agents
 - aerobiology
 - work under high levels of biological containment
 - genetic modification or work with nucleic acids
 - production of microorganisms or toxins or tissue culture cells.
- c) Basic details of any facilities or activities on the site that fall outside the scope of the Convention?

(Facility name, types of activity, owner/source of funding)

Principles of information gathering

The objective in designing declaration formats should be to maximise the information benefit of declarations to the Convention, with a minimum administrative effort for declaring facilities and their States Parties. Questions should thus

be designed to be interpreted and answered in a consistent manner by all States Parties, and thus should be independent of variations in national practices for example in scientific, technical, health & safety or quality assurance. The questions should not impinge on rights to protect CPI or NSI.

To meet these objectives, the following principles should be adopted:

- a) A general summary statement about the objectives and functions of the site.
 - b) Questions should in general seek Yes/No responses to the presence of specified activities and equipment. This will help States Parties to provide comparable information, avoiding the variation in depth of replies when essay type responses are relied on solely.
 - c) Questions requiring quantitative data should be in a multiple choice format offering a set of ranges. The potential for infringing CPI or NSI can be obviated by careful choice of these ranges in designing the formats.
 - d) Staff names should not be requested. Anonymity of the staff in declaration ensures there are no additional risks from terrorists etc.
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