

Verification

CWC verification involves the continuous monitoring of chemical weapons stockpile destruction, as well as on-site inspections of commercial chemical plants to ensure that no further production of warfare agents or precursors occurs in the guise of chemical manufacturing for peaceful purposes. Monitoring compliance with the treaty at the international level is the responsibility of a permanent multilateral agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), based in The Hague.

1. Obligations under CWC

The International Verification Regime of the CWC (Convention) provides both for declarations to be made to the OPCW and inspections of some of the declaring units by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. The detailed provisions in respect of inspections, their mandate, frequency, purpose, procedure etc. is laid down in the Verification Annex of the Convention. **Chapter V** of the Convention grants powers to the inspection team to carry out inspections in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. It is the duty and obligation of every inspectable unit in India to cooperate and facilitate the inspection of their unit.

The **Section 21** of the **Indian CWC Act, 2000**, states that refusal, delay or obstruction in the conduct of inspection constitutes an offence under the Act

2. Status of Inspections in India

Inspections under verification –

i. Chemical weapons related inspections-

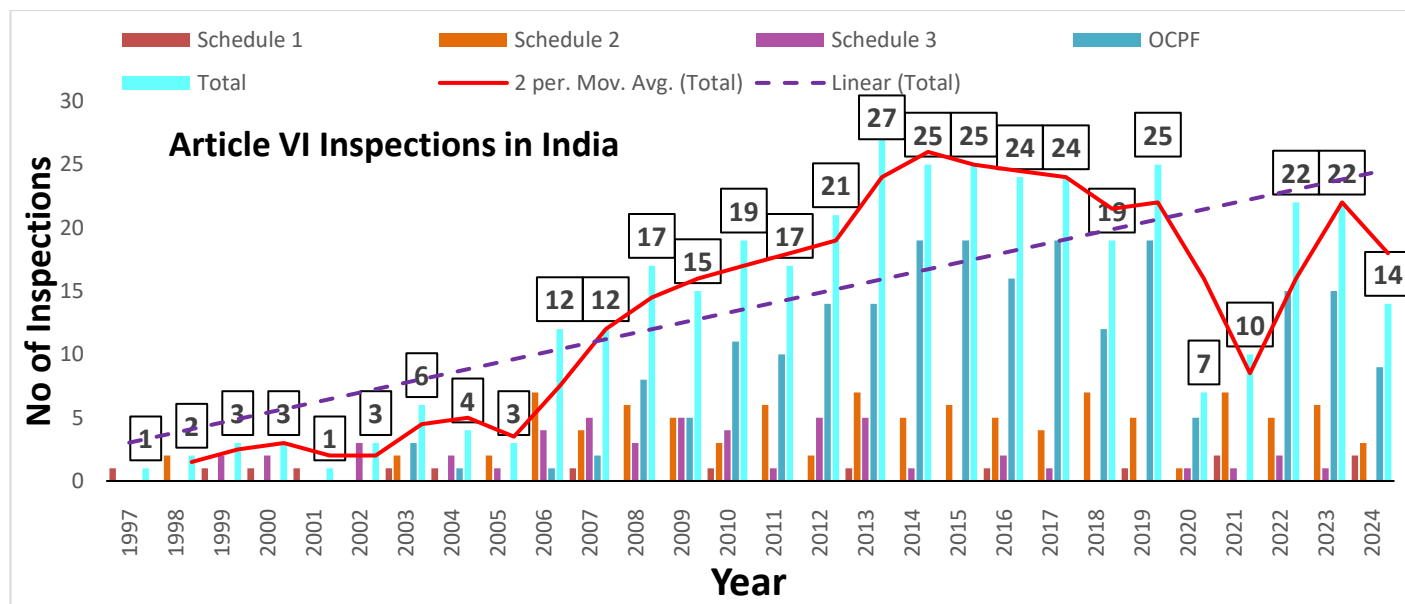
India has achieved Chemical weapons-related inspections within the given time frame under convention.

ii. Article VI inspections –

Till 18th June, 2024, India has undergone **383** nos. of Article VI Inspections.

Sl. No	Year	Schedule 1	Schedule 2	Schedule 3	OCPF	Total
1.	1997	1	0	0	0	1
2.	1998	0	2	0	0	2
3.	1999	1	0	2	0	3
4.	2000	1	0	2	0	3
5.	2001	1	0	0	0	1
6.	2002	0	0	3	0	3
7.	2003	1	2	0	3	6
8.	2004	1	0	2	1	4
9.	2005	0	2	1	0	3
10.	2006	0	7	4	1	12
11.	2007	1	4	5	2	12
12.	2008	0	6	3	8	17
13.	2009	0	5	5	5	15
14.	2010	1	3	4	11	19
15.	2011	0	6	1	10	17
16.	2012	0	2	5	14	21
17.	2013	1	7	5	14	27
18.	2014	0	5	1	19	25
19.	2015	0	6	0	19	25
20.	2016	1	5	2	16	24
21.	2017	0	4	1	19	24
22.	2018	0	7	0	12	19
23.	2019	1	5	0	19	25

24.	2020	0	1	1	5	7
25.	2021	2	7	1	0	10
26.	2022	0	5	2	15	22
27.	2023	0	6	1	15	22
28.	2024 (As on 18.06.24)	2	3	0	9	14
Total		15	100	51	217	383



3. OPCW Article VI Inspections

Production facilities engaged in the synthesis of Schedule 1, 2, 3 & DOC chemicals above the verification threshold limit are subject to OPCW inspections.

The facilities are inspected for verification of information/activities provided in the annual declarations and also the absence of any type of schedule 1 chemical production in its premises.

The National Authority receives notification for various inspections from the OPCW as below:

- i. Not less than 24 hours for Schedule 1 facility.
- ii. Not less than 48 hours for Schedule 2 facility.
- iii. Not less than 120 hours for Schedule 3 facility & OCPF.

On receiving the Inspection, National Authority acknowledges the notification to OPCW within one hour and then the concerned facility is notified with the following information-

- a) Date of inspection
- b) Time of arrival
- c) Details of International Inspectors
- d) Details of the members visiting as Escort Officers from National Authority for facilitating Inspection.

PIB (Pre-Inspection Briefing)

An advance team of Escort Officers from NACWC reaches at the facility for preparing the Industry for Inspection and preparation of Pre-Inspection Briefing (PIB). The PIB is presented by one of the member of facility to the OPCW Inspection Team. The main aim of PIB is to give the inputs regarding the activities carried out at facility. The PIB should not go beyond 3 Hours including the site tour.

Following points may be covered under PIB-

- i. Facility personnel introduction.
- ii. About the organisation including its history.
- iii. Layout of the facility under inspection including the connectivity with rail, road & air, sea, etc.
- iv. Details of all declared & undeclared scheduled chemicals on-site.
- v. Location of records & its types to verify the declaration.
- vi. Explanation of process in brief along with simplified process flow or block flow diagram associated with the declared activities.
- vii. Health and Safety information including evacuation routes in emergency.
- viii. Administrative and logistical information.
- ix. Question Answer session.

Inspections

As per the declaration submitted by the facility, the Inspection team verifies the records available for products, intermediates, consumption, processing, sales, purchase, etc. for making material balance. It is strictly done for the products under the purview of the inspection.

Time taken during Inspection for (excluding report writing & other activity) -

- Schedule 2 Facility shall not be more than 96 hours.
- Schedule 3 & OCPF (DOC & PSF) shall not be more than 24 hours.

Preliminary Finding Report (PFR) & Final Inspection Report (FIR)

Inspection Team prepares PFR and then it is reviewed by members of National Authority and Members of Facility. A duly signed copy from Inspection Team Leader and representative of National Authority is handed over to National Authority Representative for record. PFR copy is also endorsed to Facility. Final Inspection Report is received within 10 days from OPCW for comments. These are treated as Highly Protective documents and the confidentiality is maintained as per the laid down procedure.

Inspection Thresholds

All Facility submitting the declaration are not necessarily inspectable. Chemical unit's activities above the threshold value are inspectable.

The inspection thresholds for Schedule 2, Schedule 3 and OCPF units are as follows:-

Sl. No	CATEGORY	INSPECTION THRESHOLD
1.	Schedule 2	2A* - 10 kg/year 2A - 1 tonne/year 2B - 10 MT/year
2.	Schedule 3	200 MT/year
3.	OCPF units (DOC/PSF plants)	200 MT/year

4. Sources of Inspections

The detailed information on Inspection has been provided in the Download Tab