

CENTER FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) has a key role in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international arms control treaty that entered into force in 1997. The United States was one of the first countries to ratify the CWC, making it a State Party. As of November 2023, 193 nations have ratified the CWC.

The CWC prevents States Parties from developing, producing, acquiring, retaining or transferring chemical weapons; using chemical weapons; engaging in any military preparations to use chemical weapons; assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under the CWC.

The CMA Director is the Army Treaty Implementing Agent for the CWC. Located at CMA Headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the Center for Treaty Implementation and Compliance (CMA CTIC) serves as a vital link between the United States and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international implementing body of the CWC.

The CWC requires States Parties with chemical weapons or chemical weapons production facilities to destroy them in an environmentally safe manner and forbids disposal by open pit burning, land burial or dumping in any water body. The OPCW monitors participating nations to ensure compliance.

United States Achievements

By 2012, in addition to destroying approximately 90 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile since CWC entry into force, the United States had met all CWC deadlines to destroy its former chemical weapons production facilities, unfilled munitions, binary projectiles, and all binary chemical weapon materiel. At this time, all recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) declared was also destroyed.

On July 7, 2023, the OPCW stated that all declared chemical weapons stockpiles were verified as irreversibly destroyed. Although the stockpiles at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, were destroyed and chemical agent destruction activities are complete, verification activities at Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant non-contiguous sites continue.

With the completion of stockpile destruction, the CMA Director will continue to serve as the Army Treaty Implementing Agent for CWC

management and compliance, and CMA retains Army responsibility to ensure our nation upholds this international commitment. Ongoing activities include completion of chemical weapons components waste verification, verification of destruction of recovered chemical weapons, ensuring Schedule 1 chemical facilities comply with the CWC and maintaining challenge inspection readiness.

Recovered Chemical Weapons

In the early- to mid-20th century, the U.S. disposed of chemical weapons by burial and sea dumping, an internationally accepted means of chemical weapons disposal until the 1970s. Today, chemical warfare items are periodically recovered during environmental remediation of weapons burial sites, during range-clearing operations at active military installations, and sometimes in the public domain. The CMA Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate is the Department of Defense lead to assess and destroy recovered chemical weapons and materiel in an environmentally compliant manner.



CMA CTIC

If a recovered item is determined to be a CWC chemical weapon, the item is added to the United States CWC declaration. Items determined to have been produced prior to 1946 are added to the declaration as “old chemical weapons.” RCWM is entered into the Chemical Accountability Management Information Network (CAMIL), which standardizes information, reducing record-keeping requirements at the location where the RCWM is stored pending destruction. CAMIL is managed by CMA and all data entries are overseen by the CMA National Inventory Control Point, which is responsible for the centralized policy and procedures for RCWM inventory control.

Other Ongoing Activities

CMA CTIC is responsible for ensuring all CWC requirements and treaty verification. Part of this responsibility is to prepare and submit United States documentation from the Army to the OPCW Technical Secretariat. Documentation includes notifications, reports, briefings, technical data, annual plans and annual reports, and any updates to initial declarations.

CMA CTIC also provides guidance and resources to sites where declared recovered chemical weapons are stored to prepare for hosting onsite or offsite OPCW inspections.

CMA CTIC provides CWC verification support to fulfill reporting requirements for the U.S Army Schedule 1 chemical facilities. The Single Small Scale Facility (SSSF) located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and the Protective Purposes Production Facility (PPPF) located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, are two Schedule 1 chemical production facilities declared under CWC. CMA CTIC prepares and submits Annual Declaration of Anticipated Activities (ADAA),

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Annual Declaration of Past Activities (ADPA), and any changes to U.S initial declaration to the OPCW.

CMA CTIC representatives play a critical role as the U.S. Host Team Army Representative during OPCW inspections. CMA CTIC also conducts annual Site Assistance Visits to assess readiness to host OPCW systematic inspections at Schedule 1 facilities. Furthermore, CMA CTIC conducts annual treaty refresher training, and continuously provides guidance and resources to Schedule 1 sites to satisfy CWC obligations.

CMA CTIC is responsible for the Army Installation Assistance Team (IAT) in the event of a Challenge Inspection, which could begin at any installation with no more than 48 hours of notice. The IAT trains in an annual exercise and throughout the year to maintain readiness. Challenge readiness duties include planning exercises, training of all IAT personnel and maintaining an accredited OPCW certified treaty laboratory. CMA CTIC supports the laboratory participation in the OPCW proficiency testing program in compliance with certification requirements.

CMA CTIC also aids installation commanders in support of chemical weapons/chemical defense activities Army wide and specifically coordinates with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center Forensic Analytical Center, which is OPCW-accredited.

The CWC encourages international cooperation between States Parties in the peaceful use of chemistry and provides assistance and protection to States Parties threatened or attacked by chemical weapons. CMA CTIC provides vital support to the United States' compliance with CWC requirements, and to our nation's commitment to a world free of chemical weapons.

Additional Resources: Detailed CWC and OPCW information can be found at www.opcw.org.

