



BNACWC NEWSLETTER

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BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BNACWC)

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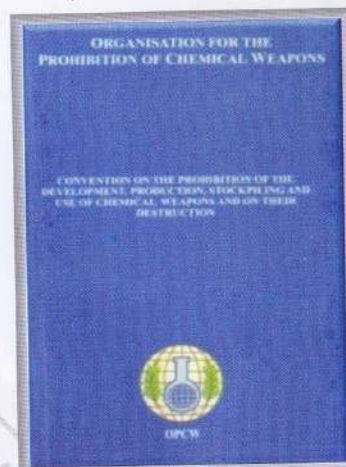
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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

CWC is an arms control agreement. The convention outlaws the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. The convention was adopted on 03 September 1992 in Geneva and opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993. CWC entered into force on 29 April 1997 for making the world free of Chemical Weapons and ensuring peaceful use of chemicals. Salient aspects of the convention are:

- All member states must destroy all Chemical Weapons and related production facilities.
- Member states can produce/use toxic chemicals for peaceful purposes only.
- Every member state should have National Authority to implement the CWC at national level.
- All member states must have the necessary legislations for implementation of the CWC.



ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)



OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organization with a working relationship to the United Nations. It is the apex implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The headquarters of OPCW is located in the Hague, Netherlands. As of today, OPCW has 193 member states, working together to implement the CWC globally. The mission of the OPCW is to implement the provisions of the CWC in order to achieve the vision for a world free of Chemical Weapons and the threat of their use. As of 31 March 2021, 98.5% of the world's declared chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed. OPCW was awarded with the coveted 'Nobel Peace Prize' in 2013 for its extensive efforts for making a world free of Chemical Weapons.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BNACWC)

BNACWC is the prime implementing body of the CWC in Bangladesh. Bangladesh signed the CWC on 14 January 1993 and ratified the Convention on 25 April 1997. The Armed Forces Division (AFD) was given with the responsibility to organize, coordinate and execute the role of National Authority in December 1997. To implement the CWC and fulfill the obligations under the Convention, Government of Bangladesh has enacted the "Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006" on 24 September 2006, through which "Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (BNACWC)" was formed. The Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of AFD is the Chairman of BNACWC. It consists of total 17 members at the status of minimum Joint Secretary and equivalent from eight ministries, Civil and Military Relations Directorate of AFD, three military services and other five chemistry, commerce and customs related organizations. Executive Cell of BNACWC has dedicated officers and men to coordinate the affairs of BNACWC. The office of the BNACWC is located at the premises of the AFD in Dhaka Cantonment.





VISIT BY BNACWC EXPERT TEAM TO BENAPOLE LAND PORT

BNACWC Expert Team visited Benapole Land Port on 04 February 2021. The purpose of the visit was to assess the management of Dangerous Goods/Chemicals in the port and suggest measures for improvement. Benapole Land Port is the busiest land port of Bangladesh. A good amount of different types of chemical are imported through this port and stored for a certain period of time. Hence, safety and security management of the Dangerous Goods/Chemicals in the port is of utmost important. The visiting team, through interactive session and on-site visit, identified few drawbacks and recommended corrective measures accordingly. The visiting team was comprised of eleven experts from BNACWC, different ministries and chemical related organizations. The team was led by Commodore Arif Ahmed Mustafa, Member Secretary, BNACWC.



Interactive session between members of the visiting team and officials from Benapole Customs and Port



On site visit in the chemical storage of Benapole Port



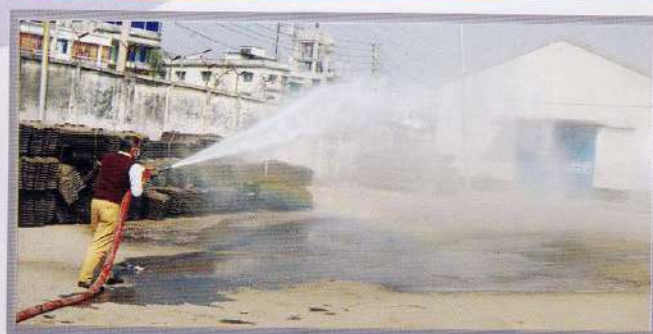
Visit to the Chemical Laboratory of Benapole Customs



Visiting Team visited the Port Fire Station



Chemical Laboratory of Benapole Customs



Demonstration of the firefighting facilities

TRAINING ON 'HANDLING OF DANGEROUS GOODS' AT CHATTOGRAM PORT

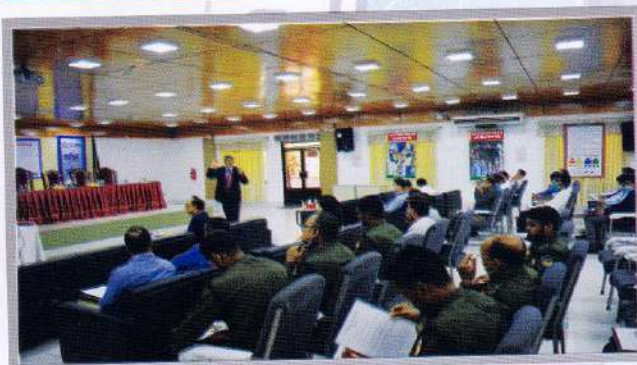
Chattogram Port is the busiest port of Bangladesh which plays an important role in the economic development of Bangladesh. Along with general commodities, a large amount of Dangerous Goods (DG) are imported and exported through Chattogram Port. Having greater risk potentials, these DG need extreme care while handling. Improper handling of DG may cause explosion/accident resulting serious damage to human life, material and environment. Hence, port personnel related to the handling of DG need better expertise on the issue. Having been realized this fact, Chattogram Port Authority requested BNACWC to organize training on 'Handling of DG'. Accordingly, BNACWC organized training on DG for thirty selected personnel of Chattogram Port from different departments. Instructors from different reputed institutions contributed to the training.



On site visit at the cargo yard of Chattogram Port



Indoor Exercise for the participants



Instructor delivering lecture on safety and security management of DG at port premises



Instructor delivering lecture on Emergency Response Mechanism and Medical support in the port



Practical training on marking, labeling, placarding of DG



Group photo session at the end of the training session








CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS (CWA)

Definition

Chemical Warfare Agents (CWA) are defined as 'any chemical which through its chemical action on life processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to humans or animals'. These agents may be in gas, liquid or solid form.

Types of CWA

CWA	Example	Impact on Health	Pictures
Choking Agent	Chloropicrin (CG) Diphosgene (DP) Phosgene (PS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflicting injury mainly on the respiratory tract. • Irritate the nose, throat and especially the lungs. • When inhaled, these agents cause alveoli, air sacs in the lungs, to secrete fluid, essentially drowning those affected. 	
Blood Agent	Hydrogen Cyanide (AC) Cyanogen Chloride (CK) Arsine (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed via blood and generally enter the body through inhalation. • Inhibit the ability of blood cells to use and transfer oxygen. • Effectively causing the body to suffocate. 	 <p>HYDROGEN CYANIDE: NERVE AGENTS HEALTH EFFECTS OF HCN</p>
Nerve Agent	Tabun (GA) Sarin (GB) Soman (GD) Cyclosarin (GF) VX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block impulses between nerve cells or across synapses. • Act primarily by absorption through the skin and lungs. • Nerve agents are divided into two main groups: G-series agents and V-series agents. • Some G-agents, particularly Tabun and Sarin, persist in the environment for only short periods. Other agents, such as Soman and Cyclosarin, persist longer and present a greater threat to the skin. • V-agents are extremely potent, with only milligrams needed to cause death, and persist for long periods of time in the environment. 	
Blister Agent	Sulfur Mustard (H, HD) Nitrogen Mustard (HN) Lewisite (L) Phosgene Oxime (CX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act via inhalation and contact, affecting the eyes, respiratory tract, and skin, first as an irritant and then as a cell poison. • Cause large and often life-threatening skin blisters which resemble severe burns, and often results in blindness and permanent damage to the respiratory system. 	
Riot Control Agent	Tear Gas (CS) Pepper Spray (OC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intended to temporarily incapacitate a person by causing irritation to the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin. • Riot Control Agents, such as tear gas, are considered as chemical weapons if used as a method of warfare. • Used as domestic law enforcement purposes. 	

Outreach Programme at Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) Training Complex

As part of outreach programme, BNACWC regularly conducts awareness lectures in different outfits to generate awareness on CWC, BNACWC and related national legislations amongst the stakeholders. FSCD is the first responder for any disaster including chemical incident/accident. FSCD is an important stakeholder in implementing CWC in Bangladesh. As part of 'Education and Outreach' programme, on 25 January 2021, Staff Officers from BNACWC delivered lectures for newly appointed Station Officers at 'Fire Service Training Complex', Mirpur. Forty five Station Officers participated in the training event. The aim of the training was to introduce the officers with BNACWC, OPCW, CWC and related legislations in Bangladesh and identification of schedule chemicals.



Coordinator, BNACWC delivering lecture on CWC, BNACWC and threat of Chemical Weapons



Staff officer, BNACWC delivering lecture on online Identification of schedule chemicals

BNACWC INSPECTIONS

Local Inspections at 'Res Label & Printing Industry Limited' and 'Son's Cosmetics'

According to 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006', BNACWC regularly conducts industry inspection to verify declarable chemical activities and ensure peaceful use of chemicals in industries. BNACWC Inspection team inspected 'Res Label & Printing Industry Limited' and 'Son's Cosmetics' on 14 March 2021. Inspection started with the pre-inspection brief by industry representative which was followed by onsite inspection to Plant Site, Chemical Storage and verification of Chemical Consumption Data. Events ended with the post-inspection brief by the inspection team, where inspectors presented their recommendations to the industries.



Production facilities of 'Res Label & Printing Industry Limited'



NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON CWC IN BANGLADESH

Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

As per the article VII of CWC, each State Party should adopt their own legislation for ensuring implementation of CWC. Accordingly, the 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006' was approved by the Parliament of Bangladesh and published on 24 September 2006 on Gazette. It has total 08 chapters, 49 articles and a chart of three types of schedule chemicals. It lays out comprehensive procedure to implement CWC in Bangladesh including necessary laws, penalty and punishment.

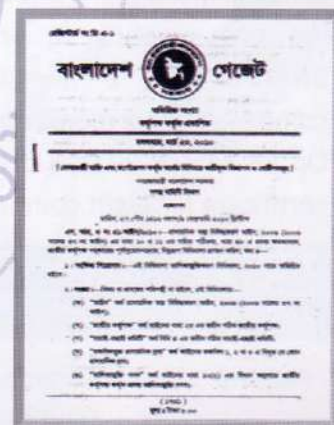


Enrollment Rules 2010

The Enrollment Rules Mentions about the obligations, criteria, procedure and submission of various documents of chemical industries/organizations for being enlisted to the National Authority. The rule was adopted on 09 February 2010 and published in Bangladesh Gazette on 23 March 2010. It is a supplementary legislation to the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006. This rule is composed of 13 articles.

Import Policy Order 2011

This policy was adopted on 19 October 2011 and published in Bangladesh Gazette on 25 October 2011 as the amendment of the Import Policy Order 2009-2011. After amendment a new sub-section (Sub-section 60) was included under the section 25 of the Policy. It also included an annex (Annex 3) where the lists of all Schedule Chemicals with their Harmonized System (HS) Code and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Registry Number were attached. According to the new sub-section 60, the chemicals of annex 3 can be imported by fulfilling the conditions of Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 and Enrolment Rules 2010. Bangladesh Government amends the Import Policy Order in every three years.



Rules for Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

Ever-increasing manufacturing sector of Bangladesh is causing a consistent rise in the use of chemicals resulting in increased production of Discrete Organic Chemicals (DOC) and transfer of Schedule Chemicals. For ensuring better chemical safety and security management, proper implementation of Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 is a prerequisite. As such, to implement the act properly, BNACWC decided to formulate rules on this act. A Rules Drafting Committee was formed by the Chairman of BNACWC. The committee is in the process of finalizing the rules titled as Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Rules, 2021. Along with the act, the rules will provide great support in implementing CWC in Bangladesh and ensuring chemical safety and security all over the country.

COORDINATION MEETING ON NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW (NSW) PROJECT

To ease up the process of Import-Export and speed up the process, Bangladesh Government took an initiative to launch a National Single Window (NSW) under National Board of Revenue (NBR). The project will introduce an automated and integrated task processing system. A single window is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import-export and transit-related regulatory requirements. A total of thirty nine ministries, government agencies and organizations will come under the same umbrella administered by NBR. BNACWC signed an MOU with NBR to be a part of NSW which will enable BNACWC to track the import and export of schedule chemicals in a better effective way. On 15 February 2021, a coordination meeting was held between NBR and BNACWC to discuss the requirement of BNACWC these to be incorporated in NSW.



LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING OF BNACWC

As per the 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006', all factories/industries involved with activities related to schedule chemicals and production with 'Discrete Organic Chemicals' must be enrolled with BNACWC. Purpose is to monitor the chemical related activities in Bangladesh and ensure better chemical safety and security management. BNACWC periodically conducts licensing meeting to enroll factories to BNACWC. BNACWC has a permanent Licensing Committee comprised of six members from different ministries and organizations led by the Member Secretary of BNACWC. On 18 March 2021, Licensing Meeting of BANACWC was held at AFD and the committee approved renewal certificate for eight companies and enrollment certificate for one new company.



Chief Patron : Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, SGP, psc
Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division

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Member Secretary, BNACWC and Director General, Civil and Military Relations
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