

BNACWC

NEWSLETTER

April-September 2021

Year 06 ● Edition 19



BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

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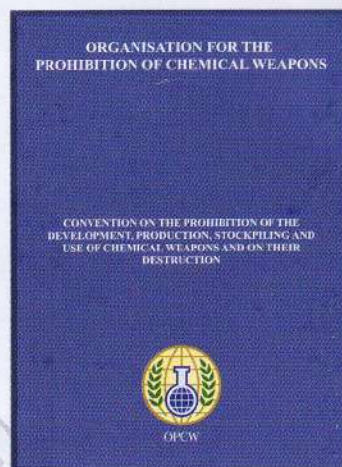
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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

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 threat of their use. As of 31 August 2021, 98.8% 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 21 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 at Dhaka Cantonment.





BASIC ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR RESPONDERS-2 (BAPCOR-2)

As part of capacity building efforts, BNACWC periodically organizes "Basic Assistance and Protection Course for Responders (BAPCoR)" for different stakeholders. The aim of this training is to enhance the capacity of the responders to deal with Chemical Agents related incidents/accidents in the country. From 14 to 16 June 2021, BNACWC organized BAPCoR-2 in a combination of online and in-person mode. The theoretical part of the training was held on 14 and 15 June 2021 via online platform under the supervision of BNACWC. The practical part of the training was held at Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) Training Complex, Mirpur. Total 27 officers from different ministries, Armed Forces, FSCD, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar and VDP participated in the training. Several resource persons from different outfits performed as instructors for the training. Senior Programme Officer of OPCW Mr Anton Martynyuk delivered a lecture where he gave an overview on the OPCW capacity building efforts for the member states.

The curricula of the course included the national legislations on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), theoretical and practical lessons on identification of Chemical Warfare Agents, Emergency Response Tools, Personal Protective Equipment and Emergency Rescue System during Chemical Incident/Accident and Medical Management of Chemical Casualties.

The closing ceremony of the training was held on 16 June 2021. Member Secretary, BNACWC and Director General, Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division Commodore Arif Ahmed Mustafa was present as the Chief Guest during the closing ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, Chief Guest distributed certificates among the participants. The Chief Guest thanked BNACWC and FSCD for organizing the event in a very befitting manner. He hoped that, this event would play an important role to enhance the capacity of responders to combat any kind of chemical incident/accident in Bangladesh.



Theoretical part of the training was held via online platform under the supervision of BNACWC

BASIC ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COURSE FOR RESPONDERS-2 (BAPCOR-2)

The practical part and the closing ceremony were held at FSCD Training Complex, Mirpur



Representative of FSCD describing about the breathing apparatus



Instructor showing the donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



A participant is seen wearing PPE with the assistance of the instructors



Responders rescuing the chemical victims from incident spot for onward transfer to the medical facilities



Rescue and medical management team being decontaminated after the rescue operation



Member Secretary, BNACWC distributed certificates among the resource persons and participants



17th GENERAL MEETING OF BNACWC

17th General Meeting of BNACWC was held on 09 August 2021 via online platform. Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer (PSO), Armed Forces Division (AFD) Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman chaired the meeting. Total 42 members from different ministries and organizations participated in the meeting. BNACWC members reviewed the present activities of BNACWC and discussed about the future road map to implement CWC in Bangladesh. Chairman underscored the importance of capacity building of the responders to deal with any chemical related incidents/accidents. Representatives from Armed Forces, Fire Service and Civil Defence and Bangladesh Police apprised the house about their capacity building activities. The house discussed about the requirement of an effective integrated national policy and framework for ensuring chemical safety and security management in Bangladesh. The forum also discussed about amending the existing legislations of the country related to management of schedule chemicals for effective implementation of CWC. The meeting ended with a positive understanding for working together to ensure chemical safety in Bangladesh.



Participants were connected to the meeting via online platform



Chairman, BNACWC delivering his welcome remarks



BNACWC members from different ministries and organizations participated in the online event

LOCAL INSPECTION OF BNACWC

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 sub-committee inspected M/S Chemicon, Gazipur on 09 June 2021 and Lizan Herbal Limited, Dhamrai on 26 September 2021. Inspection started with the pre-inspection brief by industry representatives 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.

M/S CHEMICON AT GAZIPUR



The owner of the company briefed the inspection team on their production process



Inspection team visited the store house

LIZAN HERBAL LTD AT DHAMRAI



Inspection team visited the store house



Post inspection brief by inspection team

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 of 'Discrete Organic Chemicals' must be enrolled with BNACWC. BNACWC has a permanent Licensing Committee comprised of six members from different ministries and organizations led by the Member Secretary of BNACWC. On 04 July 2021, online Licensing Meeting of BANCWC was held at AFD and the committee approved renewal certificates for two companies and enrollment certificate for one new company.

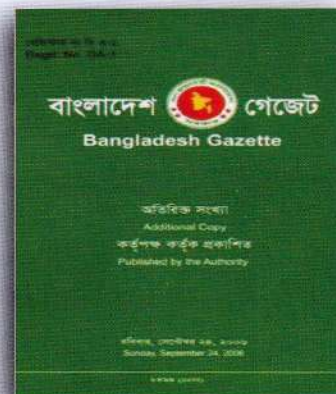




NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON CWC IN BANGLADESH

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.

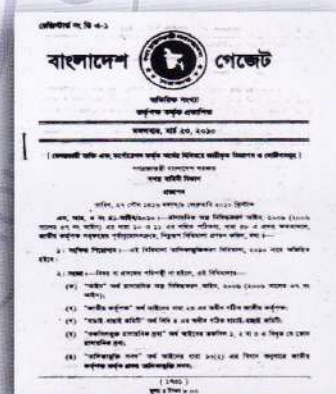


Enrollment Rules 2010

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 these act. A Rules Drafting Committee was formed by the Chairman, BNACWC. The committee already prepared the draft rules titled as Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Rules, 2021 and it is in the process of being published in Bangladesh Gazette. 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.

BNACWC EXPERT TEAM VISITED CHEMICAL CARGO STORAGE OF HAZRAT SHAHJALAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In order to ensure peaceful use of chemicals in Bangladesh, BNACWC regularly conducts inspections at various chemical related installations/facilities of Bangladesh under the purview of 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006'. Fast growing economy of Bangladesh entails import of huge chemicals for the manufacturing sectors. Ports are the prime entry points of chemicals in Bangladesh where these chemicals are stored for a certain period of time. Hence, proper storing and handling of chemicals in the ports are of utmost importance. In view of above, BNACWC expert team conducted a visit to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on 16 September 2021. The aim of the visit was to ascertain the standard of the chemical safety and security in the airport and suggest measures for ensuring efficient chemical safety and security management. The expert team was comprised of 16 members from different ministries and organizations. Member Secretary, BNACWC Commodore Jahangir Adil Samdany led the inspection team. During the visit, BNACWC Expert Team suggested various measures to improve the existing state of chemical cargo management in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.



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Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division

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