

## ***Uzbekistan***

Uzbekistan is meeting the obligations it has undertaken under bilateral and multilateral arrangements to prevent the illegal transport of strategically important material and equipment through its territory. All of Uzbekistan's activities are therefore conducted within the framework of international agreements and treaties and in accordance with the military doctrine of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan has signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction.

The Commission of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons is the national agency responsible for implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.

The Criminal Code of Uzbekistan establishes liability:

In part 2 of article 246, for smuggling nuclear, chemical, biological and other types of weapons of mass destruction and material and equipment which could be used in their manufacture. Article 255-1 of the Code also establishes liability for the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer, storage, unlawful possession and other acts in relation to bacteriological, chemical and other types of weapons of mass destruction;

For the purpose of implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) the Ministry of Health has verified the biological safety procedures and the physical protection of pathogenic organisms stored at Ministry of Health facilities. Pathogenic organisms are used for scientific purposes at the Centre for the Prevention of Particularly Dangerous and Quarantinable Infectious Diseases, the Virology Research Institute and the Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

These facilities fully meet the standards established for facilities engaged in the study and identification of quarantinable and especially dangerous infectious diseases. All laboratories have special permits to work with pathogenic organisms, which are issued by the safety commission of the Ministry of Health for each individual laboratory based on categories of risk.

The heads of the facilities have established rules governing the procedures for access by workers to the laboratories and have appointed persons responsible for receipt, accounting for, storage and issuance of pathogenic materials.

In accordance with the rules, the facilities' safety commissions test workers quarterly on their knowledge of safety procedures for working with quarantinable and particularly dangerous infectious diseases.

Access to laboratories and stored pathogenic materials is strictly limited and is granted in strict compliance with the rules.

Pathogenic material is stored in accordance with established storage standards. Work is carried out in laboratories in accordance with the Instructions on anti-epidemic procedures for work with material infected or suspected of being infected with group I and II infectious disease pathogens, approved by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 29 October 1992.

Laboratory workers working with pathogenic materials are provided with every means necessary for their personal safety, and stocks of preventive and therapeutic drugs and disinfectants have been established.