



Chemical Weapons Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 6

Introduction

1 General interpretation

- (1) Chemical weapons are—
 - (a) toxic chemicals and their precursors;
 - (b) munitions and other devices designed to cause death or harm through the toxic properties of toxic chemicals released by them;
 - (c) equipment designed for use in connection with munitions and devices falling within paragraph (b).
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to sections 2(2) and (3), 10(1) and 11(2) (by virtue of which an object is not a chemical weapon if the use or intended use is only for permitted purposes).
- (3) Permitted purposes are—
 - (a) peaceful purposes;
 - (b) purposes related to protection against toxic chemicals;
 - (c) legitimate military purposes;
 - (d) purposes of enforcing the law.
- (4) Legitimate military purposes are all military purposes except those which depend on the use of the toxic properties of chemicals as a method of warfare in circumstances where the main object is to cause death, permanent harm or temporary incapacity to humans or animals.
- (5) A toxic chemical is a chemical which through its chemical action on life processes can cause death, permanent harm or temporary incapacity to humans or animals; and the origin, method of production and place of production are immaterial.
- (6) A precursor is a chemical reactant which takes part at any stage in the production (by whatever method) of a toxic chemical.
- (7) References to an object include references to a substance.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (8) The Convention is the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, signed at Paris on 13 January 1993.
- (9) This section applies for the purposes of this Act.