

OPCW Industry Inspections

In cooperation with SECO and Labor Spiez



September 2025



Agenda

1. Legal basis
2. Inspection aims
3. Inspection procedure
4. Statistics
5. Impressions from past inspections



Legal Basis of OPCW Inspections

- **Article 6 of the CWC** stipulates «activities not prohibited» under the convention, corresponding rights and duties of States Parties
- The **Verification Annex of the CWC** contains the respective details, including on inspections
- The **Chemicals Control Ordinance (ChCO)** regulates OPCW inspections in Switzerland, particularly in chapter 6 (articles 35 to 40)



CWC Annexes

Annexes	
Chemicals:	Includes a list of all scheduled 1, 2, 3 Chemicals
Verification:	
Part VII:	Regime for schedule 2 chemicals and facilities related to such chemicals
Part VIII:	Regime for schedule 3 chemicals and facilities related to such chemicals
Part IX:	Regime for Other Chemical Production Facilities (OCPF)
Confidentiality:	Measures to protect sensitive installations and prevent disclosure of confidential data in the course of on-site verification activities



Inspection Aims

General Aim of OPCW Inspections

Verify that activities are in accordance with Member States' rights and obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention

Inspection Mandate

- 1) Verify that activities are consistent with the information provided in declarations
- 2) Confirm the absence of any schedule 1 chemical, especially its production

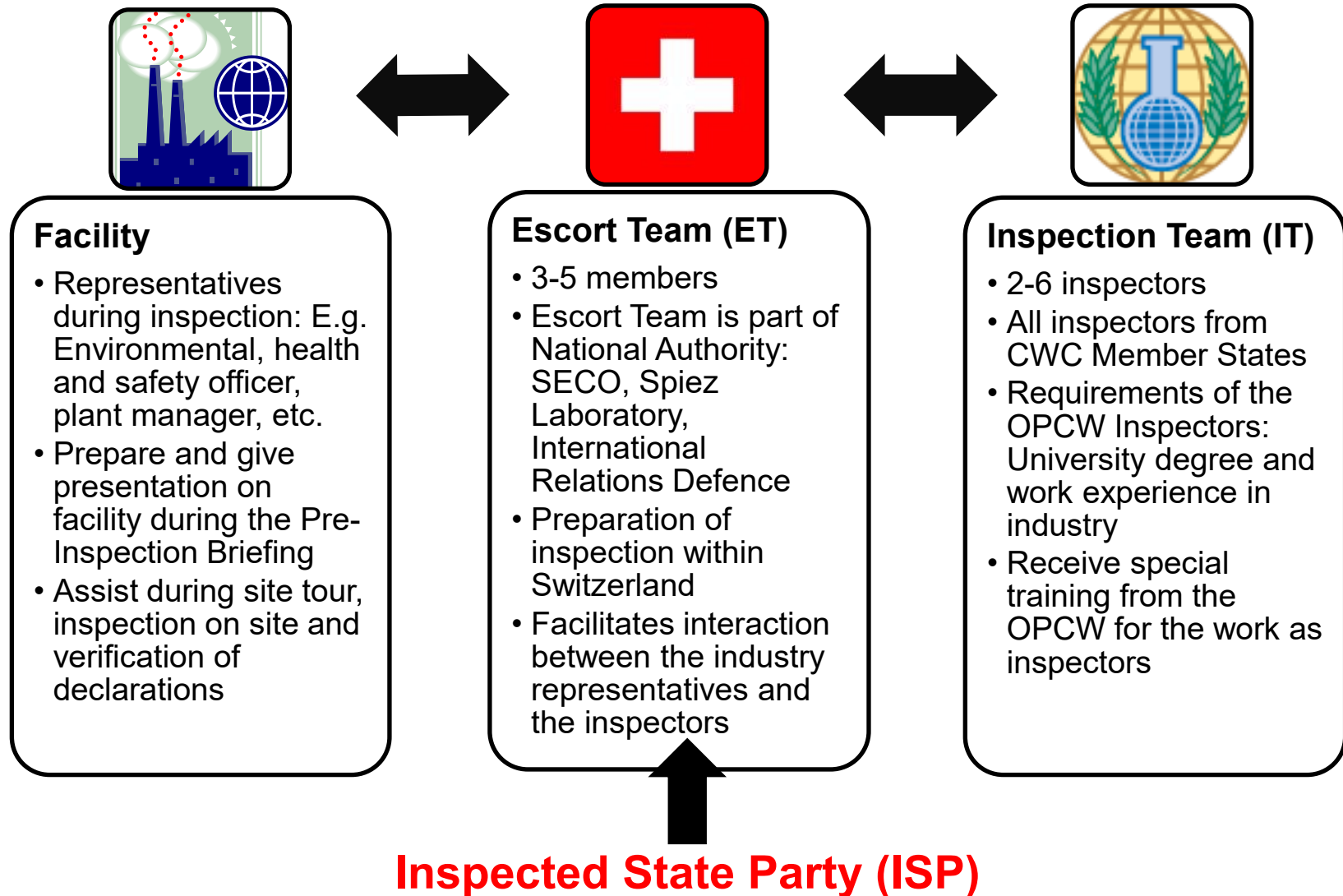


Objectives of Swiss National Authority

- Enable the inspection team to successfully fulfill the inspection mandate. Switzerland is inspected as a State Party to the CWC and has (and wants) to comply with the convention.
- No uncertainties – no (pending) issues
- The inspection is conducted in the least intrusive manner, to minimize costs for the company (save time and resources, to not share unnecessary information, etc.)

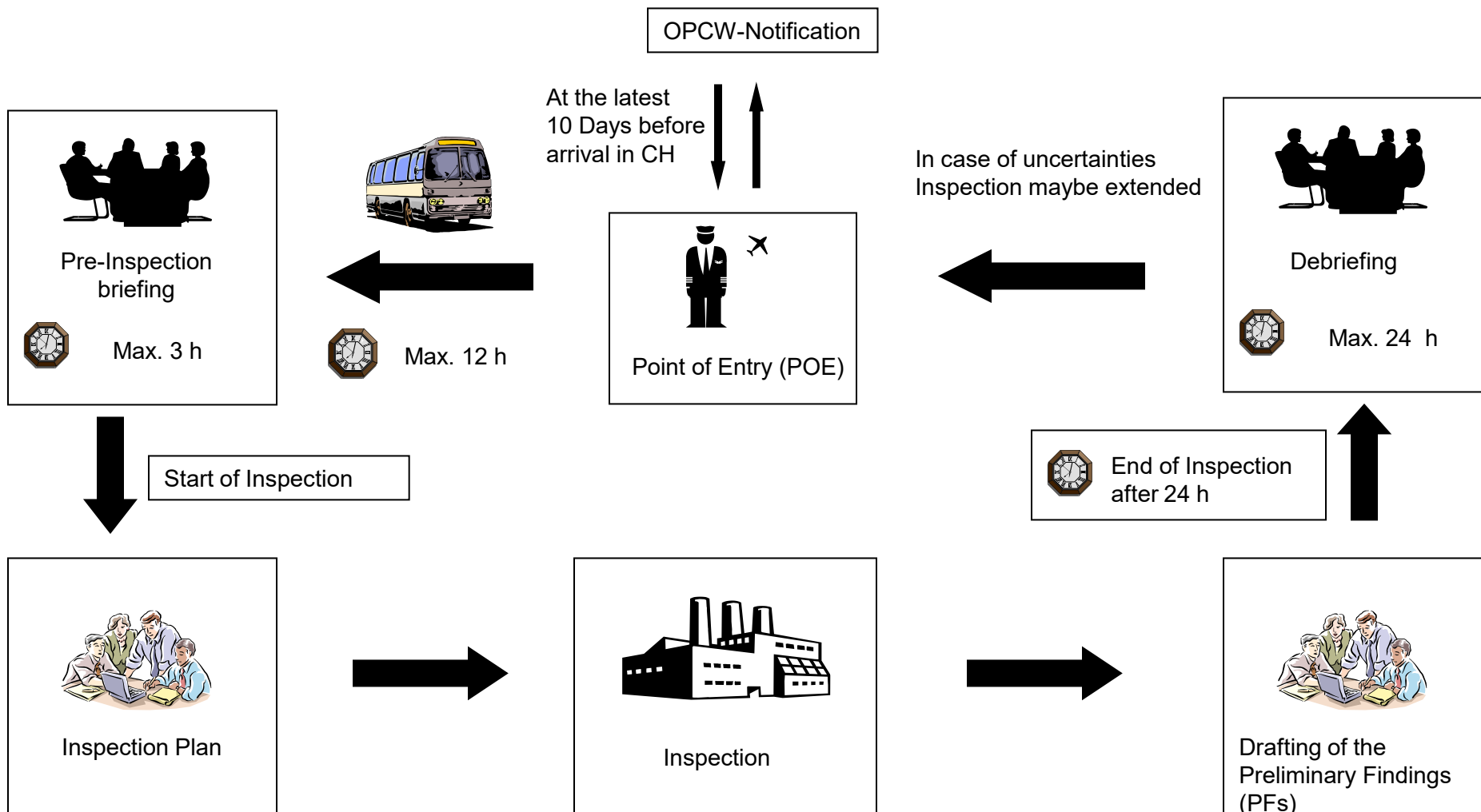


Conduct of Inspection: Involved Parties





Example: Sequence of a DOC Inspection





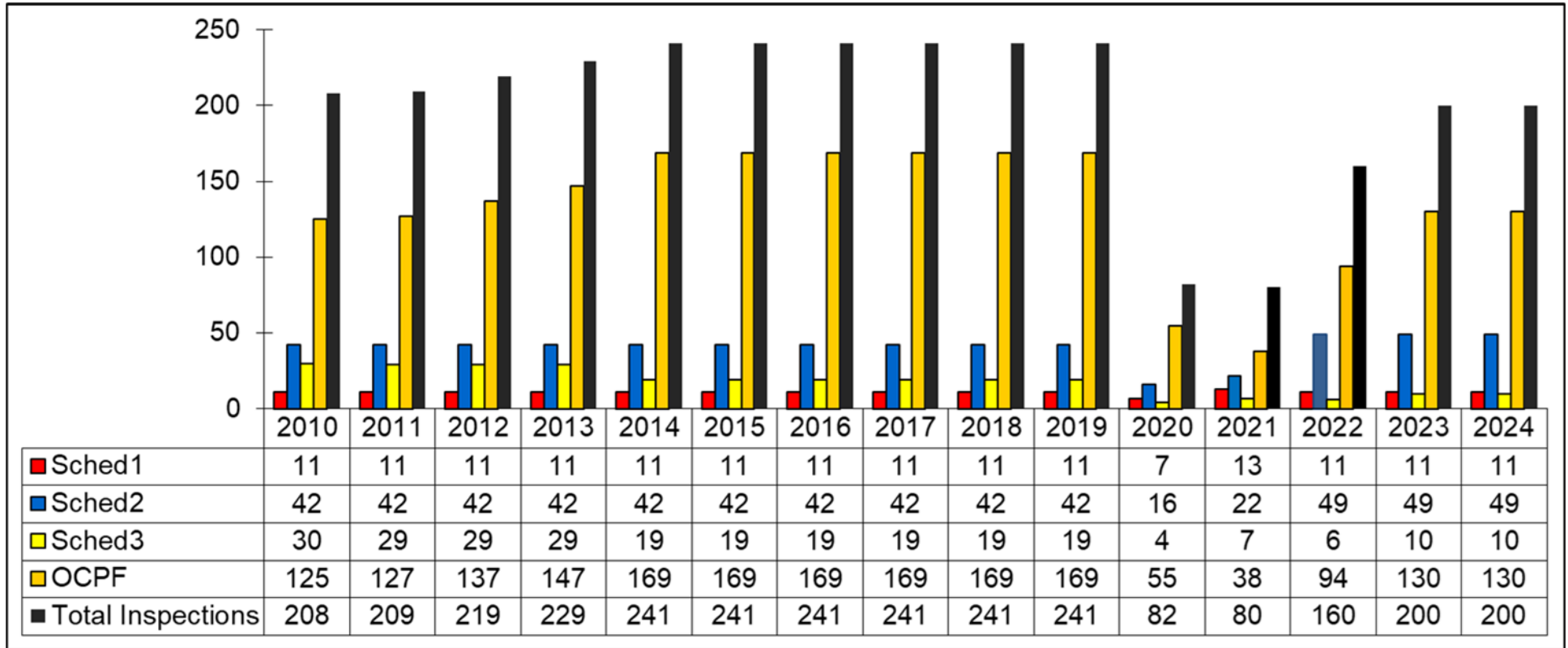
Timelines: OPCW-Notification and Physical Inspections

	Arrival of Notification	Allowed Timelines for physical inspections*
Schedule 2	At least 10 days before arrival of IT at POE	4 days
Schedule 3		1 day
OCPF		1 day

*may be extended if so agreed with the ISP



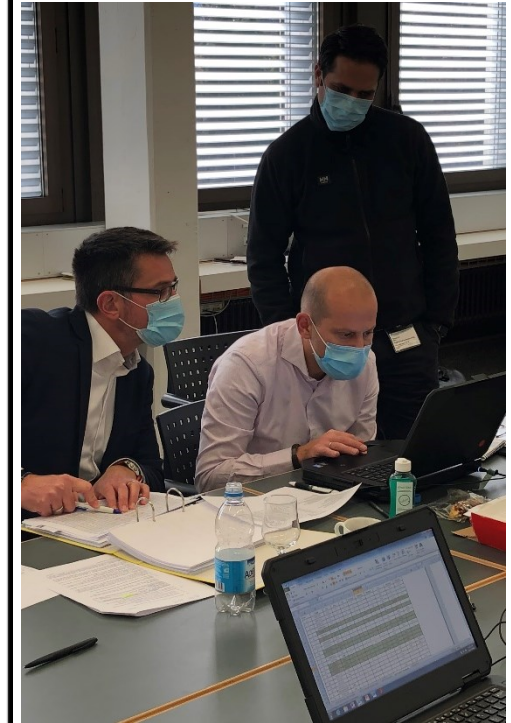
Article VI Inspections: Total number, all States Parties





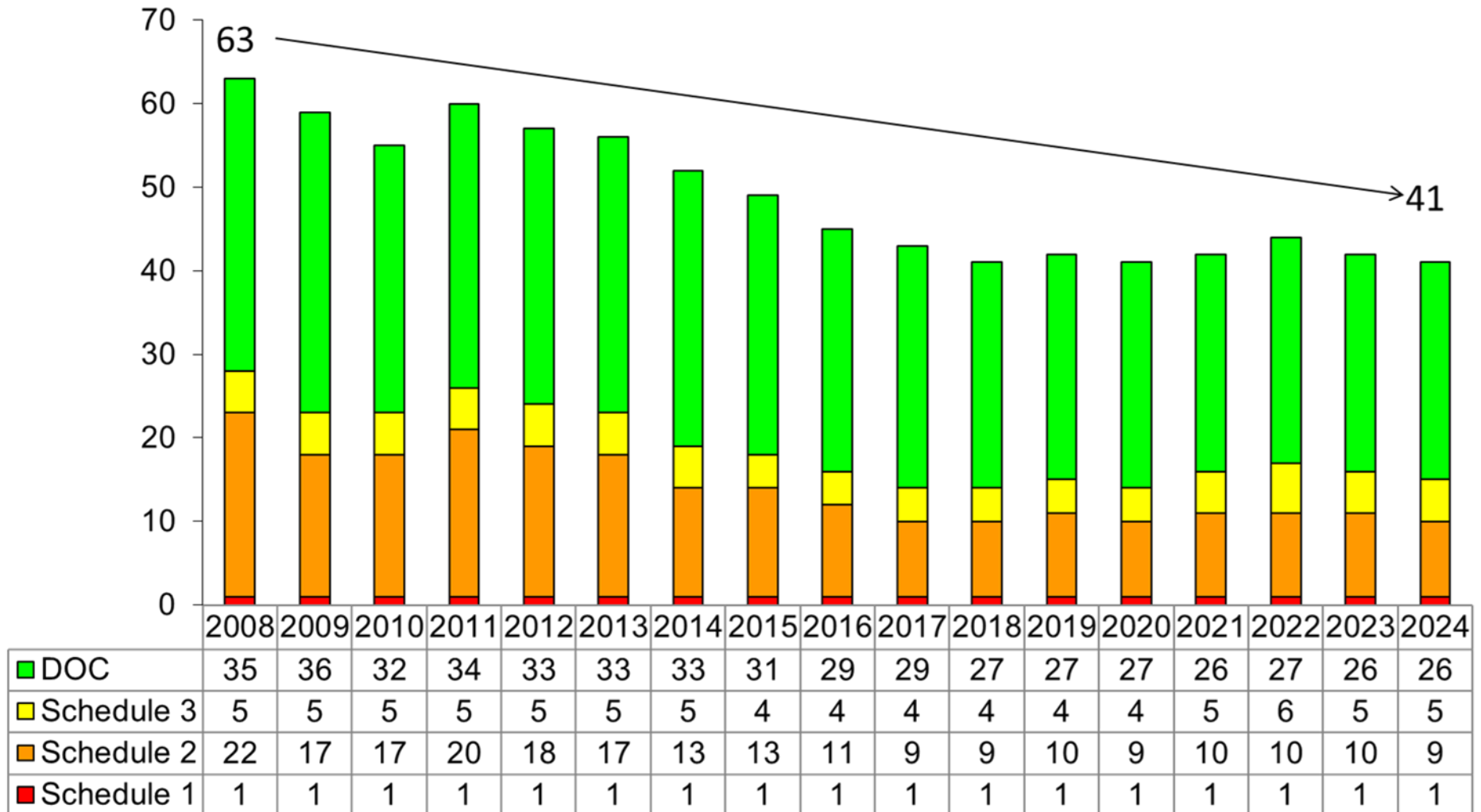
Switzerland: declarable and inspectable plant sites in 2024

	Declarable	Inspectable
Sch 1	1	1
Sch 2	9	3
Sch 3	5	4
OCPF	26	26
Traders	~23	-
Total	64	34



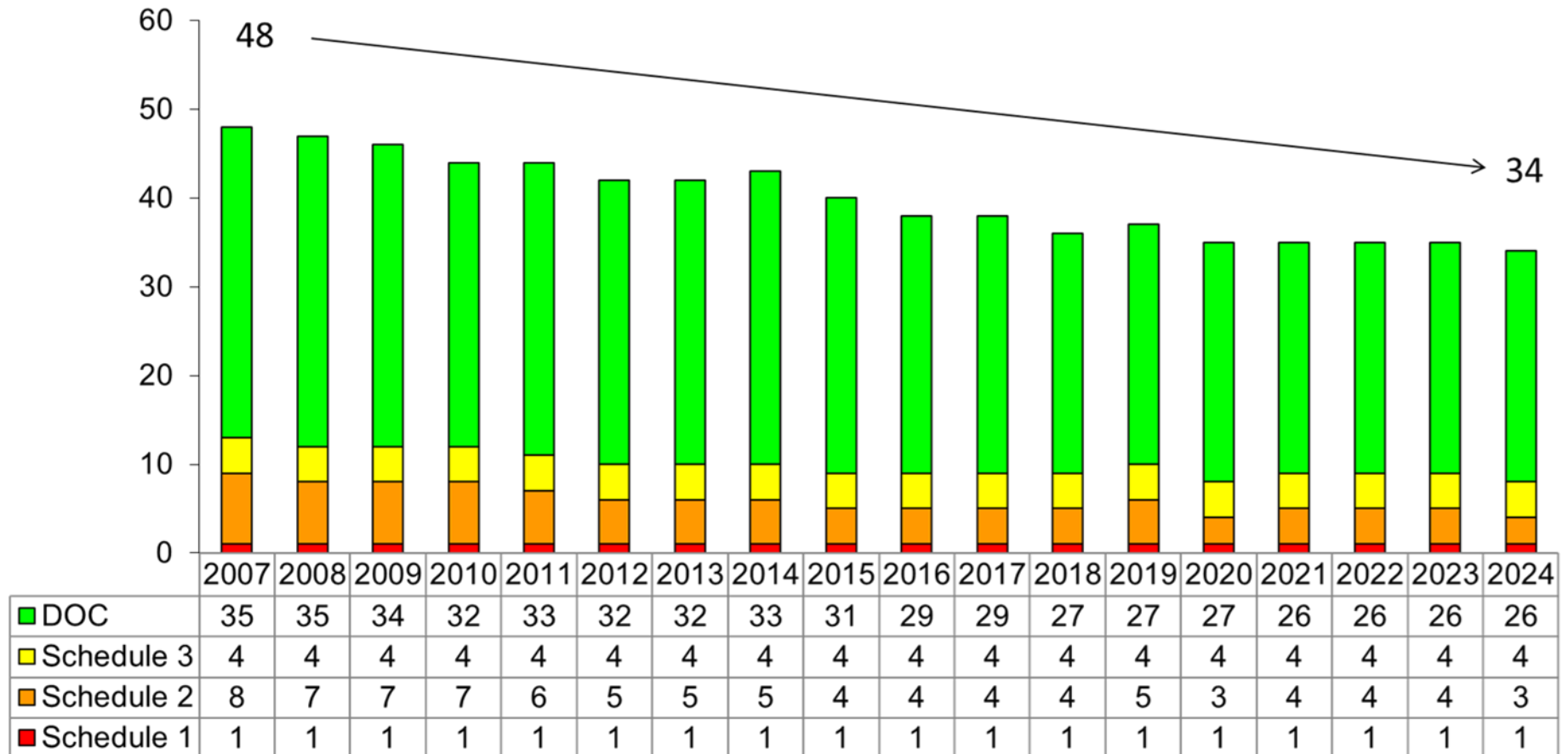


Declared Plant Sites in Switzerland





Inspectable Plant Sites in Switzerland





OPCW Inspections in CHE

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	ytd 25	Total
Sched 1	1		1	1			1	1		1			1			1		1		1			1	1		1		1		14
Sched 2	1	4	3		2	1	2	3	5	2*	1	2	2*	2	1		3*	1	2*		1		2		1		2			43
Sched 3			1	1	1		1												1	1					1				7	
DOC/PSF						1		1	1	3	4	3	4	2	1	3	4	2	3	2	4	2	2	3			1	2*	1	49
Total	2	4	5	2	3	2	4	5	6	6	5	5	7	4	2	4	7	4	6	4	5	2	5	4	2	1	3	3	1	113*

- ca. 2 - 4 Inspections per year
- * Sample & Analysis Inspections (Σ 5)



OPCW Routine Inspections in Industry



Training on CWC Obligations for Industry
SECO and SPIEZ LABORATORY



Pre-Inspection Briefing = PIB



Training on CWC Obligations for Industry
SECO and SPIEZ LABORATORY



PIB



Site tour



Check of declarations

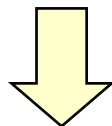
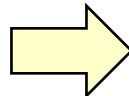


Preliminary findings





Sampling & Analysis





Experience

In general:

The better the preparation, the shorter the inspection!

Pay attention:

- Friendly and open atmosphere – inspectors are neither enemies nor friends
- Be polite and honest, support information with written and relevant documents
- Explain what they ask for and not more (no storytelling)
- In case of uncertainties: show documents first to ET in order to filter the relevant information
- Inspectors should have unimpeded access to different facilities, to the extent that the mandate requires it

Questions?

