Serbia recognizes the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of Agreements on disarmament and arms control. In 2000, it adopted the Law on the ratification of the Convention on Prohibition, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Official Gazette of the FRY- International Contracts, No. 2/2000), thus acceding to this Convention. In 2009, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning drafted the Law on the prohibition, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction and amended it in 2013 (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 36/2009 and 104/2013). This Law stipulates that the legal entities producing, processing, using and stockpiling the chemical substances from the Convention list shall ensure inspection supervision in order to check compliance with the prescribed obligations and it also defines penal provisions.

This Law also provides for the division of competencies among relevant Ministries. The Ministry of Defence manages proper implementation of the Law and ensures that chemical substances are used solely for allowed military purposes. The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for the implementation of the Law on the prohibition, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction (“Official Gazette of the RS” No. 36/2009 and 104/2013) in part related to production, processing, use and stockpiling of the chemical substances from Schedule 2, as well as for the production of chemical substances from Schedule 3, including discreet organic substances, when used for industrial, agricultural, medicinal, pharmaceutical and other purposes under the Law.

The Ministry in charge of foreign trade in weapons, military equipment and dual-use goods issues permits in accordance with the Law and within its jurisdiction. The Ministry submits the data on the import and export of chemical substances from Schedules 2 and 3 to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The said Law provides for the establishment of a Commission for Implementation of the Convention. The Commission for the Implementation of the Convention oversees and coordinates the activities related to the implementation of international obligations under the Convention and cooperates with the Secretariat of the Organisation (OPCW) and the national authorities of other State Parties to the Convention as well as with international inspection. This Convention is aimed at prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, including the prohibition of the chemical substances used for production of such weapons. The Convention is also aimed at ensuring that the said chemical substances are used solely for economic purposes or for allowed military purposes that are not connected with the use of chemical weapons. In order to achieve the aim of the Convention that chemical substances are used for the allowed purposes only, two mechanisms have been established: reporting and international inspection.
Reporting

Reporting is conducted through the obligation of the Parties to the Convention to submit annual declarations to the OPCW on:

1) the production, processing, use and stockpiling of the chemical substances from Schedules 1, 2 and 3, the facilities for their production, processing and use and the facilities for production of discreet organic substances by 31 March of the current calendar year for the previous calendar year. The data related to chemical substances from Schedule 1 are submitted to the Ministry of Defence, whereas the data related to Schedules 2 and 3, including discreet organic substances, are submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Pursuant to Article 16 of the Law on the prohibition, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, for the purpose of timely submission of declarations, the legal entity producing, processing, using or stockpiling the chemical substances from Schedule 2, and producing chemical substances from Schedule 3 as well as discreet organic substances, is obliged to submit a report to the Ministry of Environmental Protection on activities conducted in the previous year, as well as the data related to the relevant factory, plant or facility by 31 January of the current calendar year for the previous calendar year. Furthermore, the Ministry in charge of foreign trade in weapons, military equipment and dual-use goods is obliged to submit the data to the above-mentioned ministry on import and export of chemical substances from Schedules 2 and 3. Based on the submitted reports and information and pursuant to Article 31 of this Law, the Ministry of Environmental Protection prepares declarations and submits them to the Commission for Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

2) the plans for the production, processing, use and stockpiling of the chemical substances and the plans related to factory, plant or facility where such activities related to chemical substances from Schedules 1, 2, and 3 will be carried out. Legal entities submit to the Ministry of Environmental Protection information on plans for the production, processing, use or stockpiling of the chemical substances from Schedule 2, i.e. the production of the chemical substance from Schedule 3, not later than 15 September of the current year for the next calendar year. Based on the information, the Ministry of Environmental Protection prepares declarations and submits them to the Commission for implementation of the Convention of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Declarations are prepared by entering data into the system using EDNA programme and the data thus prepared are submitted to the president of the Commission for implementation of the Convention, who forwards them to the OPCW.

International inspection

The supervision of the implementation of the Law is conducted through international verification and inspection. International verification is conducted by international inspectors,
assisted by escort team. In accordance with the Convention, a Party to the Convention is obliged to accept international inspection team and to allow inspection supervision. An escort team is designated by the Commission from among its members. Pursuant to Article 35 of this Law, part of the escort team to the international inspection consists of environmental inspectors, when international verification is conducted within a legal entity engaged in production, processing, use or stockpiling of the chemical substance from Schedules 2 and 3 and discreet organic substance for industrial, agricultural, research, medicinal, pharmaceutical, and other peaceful purposes. Pursuant to Article 39 of this Law, inspection of the production, processing, use or stockpiling of Schedules 2 and 3 chemicals and discreet organic chemicals for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical and other peaceful purposes is carried out by environmental inspectors.

According to Article 40, when carrying out the inspection, environmental inspectors are authorised to verify in particular:

1. Compliance with the obligation to declare the production, processing, use or stockpiling of chemicals specified in Articles 11, 12 and 14 of this Law.

2. Accuracy of the data provided in the reports on the production, processing, use and stockpiling of chemical substances.

3. Compliance with the obligation of the legal entity producing, processing and using such chemicals to declare any reconstruction works on the plant site, as well as any changes in the production, processing and use technology of such chemical substances.

4. Accuracy of the data submitted in the declarations concerning reconstruction works on the plant site producing, processing and using of chemical substance and respecting the timeframe set for such declarations.

5. Compliance with the obligation to submit reports and information on the production, processing, use and stockpiling of such chemical substance, as well as the data on the plant sites producing, processing, and using of such chemical substance.

6. Accuracy of the data contained in the reports and information, and respect for the timeframe set for the submission of such reports and information.

Serbia fully complies with its obligations arising from this Convention, regularly submits annual declarations and fulfils all other obligations regarding its implementation.