

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

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Ian Bullpitt, BOZ Technical Services

Hemi Morete, Southpac Consulting



Currumbin Waters, QLD 4223, Australia
Ph: +61-(0)7-5598-5062
Mobile: +61-(0)488-985062
E-mail: boztec@bigpond.com

CV – Ian Bullpitt

- **1980-1994: Australian Army Engineers** (extensive exposure to construction, govt & civil standards)
- **1992-2001: UN mine action** (Afghanistan, Cambodia + project formulation/evaluation/support to Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Iran, Mozambique, Bosnia)
- **2002-2007: Commercial ERW management** (Shell Russia - onshore & offshore; 1st programme to merge IMAS, ISO, O&G standards)
- **2001/2 + 2007-Present: ERW consulting:**
 - Croatia evaluation & project formulation (2001, UNDP)
 - Kosovo MACC Evaluation (2001, UNMAS/DPKO)
 - Guest lecturer Cranfield Senior Managers Course (2001)
 - Angola evaluation & project formulation (2002, UNDP)
 - Exxon PNG - UXO Project risk assessment, design & evaluation (2008)
 - Talisman Energy – Explosives audit, company standards (2009-10)
 - Australian Government – UXO Consultant (2010 to present)
 - Various projects – UXO risk assessments & project design (2010 to



Iron rusts from disuse;
water loses its purity from stagnation...
even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.

- Leonardo da Vinci

I cannot say whether things will get better if we change;
what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.

- G. C. Lichtenberg

Evaluation Objective

Evaluation Basis: 2009 Review Board requested an evaluation of IMAS to:

- provide clear feedback as to how IMAS have been perceived in the field;
- indicate areas that need to be further improved and strengthened; and
- serve as the basis on which the IMAS future strategy should be developed.

Evaluation Objectives :

- Assess overall usefulness, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the IMAS in mine action;
- Identify gaps in the process, products, and services, and highlight areas for improvement and strengthening of the IMAS and the outreach programme.

Methodology

Phase 1: Desk study of IMAS and other relevant documents:

- IMAS, TNMA, CWA;
- Minutes of the IMAS Review Board and Steering Group meetings; and
- Evaluation reports.

Phase 2: Interviews with key actors including:

- Members of the IMAS Review Board and IMAS Steering Group;
- Representatives from National Authorities Reps and National Directors;
- UN Programme Managers and Technical Advisers;
- Employees of mine action organizations (national, international and commercial);
- UNMAS and GICHD staff; and
- Other stakeholders and partners including staff of mine action programmes, donors, military reps, staff of the UN small arms control standards and disarmament standards etc.

Phase 3: Feedback received via an e-questionnaire:

- available to all mine action groups
- advertised on the GICHD website
- generated some 60 responses (both humanitarian and commercial).

Limitations

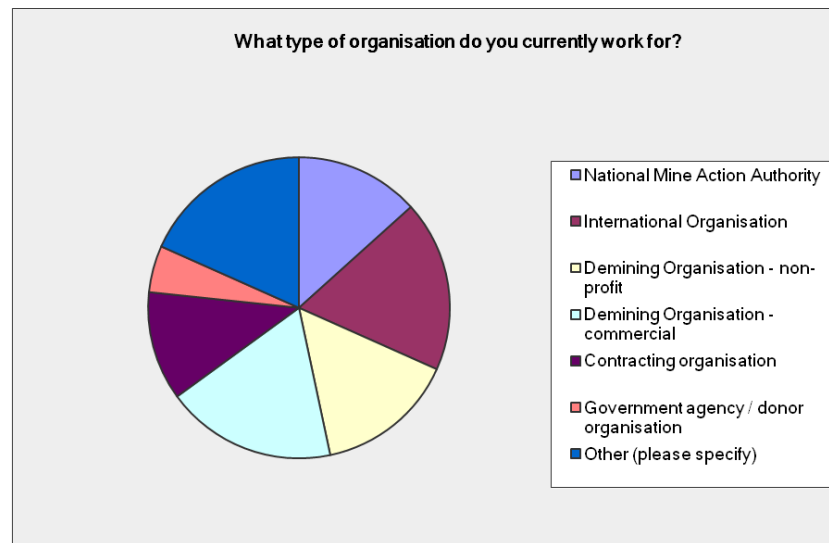
- Responses useful as broad indicators but care should be exercised in interpreting the results too literally
- Many factors may influence respondents' answers:
 - the respondent's position (operator, supervisor, manager, director)
 - the nature of work performed by the respondent's organisation (implementing agency/contractor, client, national mine action centre, consultant, etc)
 - the respondent's personal attitude towards 'standards' generally and IMAS specifically
 - the respondent's knowledge and experience with 'standards' generally and IMAS specifically
- Influences generally not explored by evaluation
- Evaluation doesn't have 20/20 vision

Types of 'Standards'

- **Specification**: Sets out detailed requirements, to be satisfied by a product, material, process, service or system, and the procedures for checking conformity to these requirements.
- **Method**: Gives a complete account of the way in which an activity is performed (and, where appropriate, of the equipment or tools required to perform it) and conclusions are reached, to a degree of precision appropriate to the stated purpose.
- **Guide**: Gives broad and general information about a subject, with background information where appropriate.
- **Vocabulary**: Standard listing definitions of terms used in a particular sector, field or discipline.
- **Codes of Practice**: Recommendations for accepted good practice as followed by competent and conscientious practitioners, and which brings together the results of practical experience and acquired knowledge for ease of access and use of the information.
- **Classification**: Designations and descriptions of different grades of a product and that identifies and arranges data in hierarchical order.

Respondents/IMAS 'Customers'

What type of organisation do you currently work for?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
National Mine Action Authority	13.3%	8
International Organisation	18.3%	11
Demining Organisation - non-profit	15.0%	9
Demining Organisation - commercial	18.3%	11
Contracting organisation	11.7%	7
Government agency / donor organisation	5.0%	3
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultancy/support role – 7 ○ Peacekeeping – 1 ○ Academic - 1 ○ Other NGO – 1 ○ EOD/Demining school + commercial demining - 1 	18.3%	11



Use of IMAS

How have you used IMAS? (please tick all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
As a basis for the development of National Standards/Guidelines.	73.7%	28
As a basis for contractual agreements.	52.6%	20
As a reference document for procedural or safety reasons.	78.9%	30
Other (please specify)	13.2%	5
answered question		38
skipped question		22

- “*As a basis for contractual agreements*” could be an extension of ‘*procedural or safety reasons*’?
- IMAS are most often used “*as a reference document for procedural or safety reasons*”

Usefulness, Efficiency and Effectiveness

Since the advent of IMAS, do you think that mine action is:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Safer?	80.0%	48
Less safe?	6.7%	4
About the same?	10.0%	6
I have no opinion	3.3%	2

Since the advent of IMAS, do you think that mine action is:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
More efficient?	71.7%	43
Less efficient?	6.7%	4
About the same?	15.0%	9
I have no opinion	6.7%	4

- Very positive perceptions but little or no evidence to confirm if industry is indeed safer, more efficient or more effective (information/knowledge gaps?)
- Unable to assess which IMAS are having most impact

Relevance

Answer Options	Highly relevant
09.11 - Battle Area Clearance	21
10.30 - Personal Protection Equipment – PPE	21
10.40 - Medical Support to Demining Operations	20
08.22 - Technical Survey	20
09.10 - Clearance Requirements	19

Answer Options	Highly relevant	Relevant
08.10 - General Mine Action Assessment	12	17
09.44 - Guide to Occupational Health and General Dog Care	9	17
08.30 - Post-clearance Documentation	15	16
07.30 - Accreditation of Demining Organizations	14	16
09.50 - Mechanical Demining	12	16

Answer Options	Irrelevant	Highly irrelevant	TOTAL - "Irrelevant"
09.44 - Guide to Occupational Health and General Dog Care	2	3	5
03.30 - Guide to the research of mine action technology	5	0	5
03.10 - Guide to procurement of mine action equipment	3	4	7
03.20 - Procurement Process	6	4	10
09.43 - Remote Explosive Scent Tracing - REST	6	5	11

- All IMAS 'relevant' to some degree
- Evaluation did not explore relevance of subject/issue versus relevance of material contained in IMAS
- Did not measure magnitude of impact of the various IMAS

Frequency of Use

- Not a good indicator of importance
- Only 36/60 respondents provided ratings
- All IMAS used to some extent by the industry.
- Reasonable to conclude that subjects addressed by the current IMAS are broadly of use.
- Responses generally cluster around the “Monthly/Annual/Seldom”
- IMAS likely used to shape subordinate documents (e.g. national standards, organisational SOP’s and the like)

Availability/Accessibility

- Access to current IMAS not overly problematic however >13% indicated some difficulties
- Issue to be investigated further by the GICHD
- Notification/distribution of amendments or changes to IMAS needs improvement

Management of IMAS

- Current structures have worked adequately over the past decade however ...
- questions raised whether these are suitable for the future
- High level UN endorsement has merit but too 'UN-heavy' – broaden to include relevant stakeholders?
- Clearly 2 different groups of users – need two-tier system of standards?
- More involvement of subject matter specialists & industry as whole
- Major rise in commercial & other groups – broaden scope & involvement?

Translation of IMAS

- Insufficient information presently available to make firm recommendations (GICHHD action?)
- Other industries face same dilemma
- Equally valid arguments 'for' and 'against'
- (+) Encourages readership/usage; dispels perception of 'western' standards
- (-) Extra burden on GICHHD?
- (?) Translation done centrally or at country level?

Format, Style & Content

- 2 quite different groups of users = different needs/expectations
- Type/Style 1 - Strategic/Structural:
 - Less detailed and offer broader 'guidance' type information.
 - More flexibility/less prescriptive in nature (generally 'should', 'could', 'may').
- Type/Style 2 - Operational & Technical:
 - More detailed, 'best practices', more specific instructions regarding 'how to'.
 - More prescriptive in nature ('shall', 'will', etc) while allowing some flexibility to modify practices
- (*3rd Type/Style – Information & Supporting Docs*)
 - Similar to TNMA concept and consist of a wide range of material of relevance to the ERW industry that helps to build knowledge and understanding

Future Direction

??????

Moving to ISO

- ‘Positives’ do not outweigh ‘negatives’
- Minimal support within industry
- Other higher priorities
- If there is intent or desire to migrate to ISO, recommended that the whole-of-life costs and the real net benefits be assessed

Gaps - Process, Products & Services

- Will the ERW industry merge the humanitarian, commercial, government and military ERW sub-sectors?
- Legislation – strengthen & support
- National Standards - support
- Non-ERW Standards - include
- Training & Qualifications – establish(?)
- Technical Issues – provide info/guidance

Outreach Programme

- ‘Internal & Downwards’ Outreach
 - encourage wider participation and involvement
 - training & education
 - financial & personnel support for NMAS
 - easier/better access + ‘*one stop shop/library*’
- ‘Lateral/Horizontal’ Outreach
 - ‘Don’t reinvent the wheel’
 - Humanitarian, commercial, mil./peacekeeping and govt sub-sectors are the same thing! Increase cooperation with non-hum. sectors.
 - Promoting IMAS is promoting ‘good governance’
 - ‘Re-brand’ IMAS (?)
 - Cooperation with non-ERW industries, clients & customers
 - Global, harmonised training and licensing (?)
 - Global ERW institute

CONCLUSIONS

- ERW industry has grown, changed composition & diversified activities
- Perception that IMAS are 'UN standards' or 'humanitarian demining standards'
- Current IMAS appreciated & appear to be contributing to improvements
- Some gaps – mostly technical details
- Big question – whether to expand IMAS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Decide future direction of IMAS (hum. demining or wider ERW?)
- Rationalise 'information' to make it easier & simpler for users to get good advice
- Focus on 'impact' (& measure it!)
- Actively & continually seek feedback
- Expand views to include both non-humanitarian & non-ERW



There is nothing wrong with change,
if it is in the right direction

- Winston Churchill

End – Questions?