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Accreditation of demining organisations and operations

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Foreword

International standards for humanitarian demining programmes were first proposed by working groups at an international technical conference in Denmark, in July 1996. Criteria were prescribed for all aspects of demining, standards were recommended and a new universal definition of 'clearance' was agreed. In late 1996, the principles proposed in Denmark were developed by a UN-led working group and the International Standards for Humanitarian Mine Clearance Operations were developed. A first edition was issued by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in March 1997.

The scope of these original standards has since been expanded to include the other components of mine action and to reflect changes to operational procedures, practices and norms. The standards were re-developed and renamed as International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) with the first edition produced in October 2001.

The United Nations has a general responsibility for enabling and encouraging the effective management of mine action programmes, including the development and maintenance of standards. UNMAS, therefore, is the office within the United Nations responsible for the development and maintenance of IMAS. IMAS are produced with the assistance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising IMAS is conducted by technical committees, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. The latest version of each standard, together with information on the work of the technical committees, can be found at <http://www.mineactionstandards.org/>. Individual IMAS are reviewed at least every three years to reflect developing mine action norms and practices and to incorporate changes to international regulations and requirements.

Introduction

IMAS 09.10 specifies the methods of achieving clearance quality by adopting a two stage approach. Stage 1 Quality Assurance (QA) involves the accreditation and monitoring of the demining organisation, before and during the clearance process. Stage 2 Quality Control (QC) involves the inspection of cleared land before it is formally released to the beneficiary for use.

Most National Mine Action Authorities (NMAA) already apply some form of accreditation procedures. The form and extent of such accreditation varies from country to country, but the aim is similar – to establish and confirm the quality of demining organisations and their field operations.

Accreditation is fundamental to the whole demining Quality Management (QM) process. Having thorough and comprehensive accreditation procedures from the outset ensures that a demining organisation is established, staffed, equipped, and has the required systems, procedures and support structures in place prior to any work commencing. Furthermore, the accreditation process checks that the demining organisation is working in accordance with its documented systems and procedures and capable of achieving required standards. As a result of the accreditation process an accreditation agreement is reached with the demining organisation on the standards to which demining is to be carried out. This agreement then forms the basis for all follow-on monitoring activities.

The aim of this standard is to provide specifications and guidelines for the implementation of an accreditation system as part of Stage 1 of the clearance process. The goal is to promote a common and consistent approach, which will encourage demining organisations to develop and demonstrate a broadly similar quality of management practices and operational capabilities, regardless of their size or experience.

Edition 1 of IMAS 07.30 referred to accreditation and licensing. The term licensing in the context of accreditation is no longer used. This Edition of IMAS 07.30 now refers to the accreditation process, which shall consist of two parts:

- a) organisational accreditation; and
- b) operational accreditation.

There are obvious operational, logistic and administrative advantages to combining the national monitoring, accreditation and post clearance inspection bodies into one overall 'Quality Assurance and Control' body. This should be considered by the NMAA.

Accreditation of demining organisations and operations

1. Scope

This standard provides specifications and guidelines for the implementation of a system for the accreditation of demining organisations and their field operations.

Although this standard focuses on demining, the concept of accreditation can be applied to other components of mine action including, impact surveys, non-technical and technical surveys, Mine Risk Education (MRE) projects, EOD activities, training and stockpile destruction.

2. References

A list of normative references is given in Annex A. Normative references are important documents to which reference is made in this standard and which form part of the provisions of this standard.

3. Terms, definitions and abbreviations

A complete glossary of all the terms, definitions and abbreviations used in the IMAS series of standards is given in IMAS 04.10.

In the IMAS series of standards, the words 'shall', 'should' and 'may' are used to indicate the intended degree of compliance. This use is consistent with the language used in ISO standards and guidelines:

- a) 'shall' is used to indicate requirements, methods or specifications that are to be applied in order to conform to the standard;
- b) 'should' is used to indicate the preferred requirements, methods or specifications; and
- c) 'may' is used to indicate a possible method or course of action.

The term 'National Mine Action Authority' (NMAA) refers to the government entity, often an inter-ministerial committee, in a mine-affected country charged with the responsibility for the regulation, management and coordination of mine action.

Note: In the absence of a NMAA, it may be necessary and appropriate for the UN, or some other recognised international body, to assume some or all of the responsibilities, and fulfil some or all the functions, of a MAC or, less frequently, an NMAA..

The term 'demining organisation' refers to any organisation (government, NGO or commercial entity) responsible for implementing demining projects or tasks. The demining organisation may be a prime contractor, subcontractor, consultant or agent.

The term 'demining sub-unit' refers to an element of a demining organisation, however named, which is operationally accredited to conduct one or more prescribed demining activities, such as technical surveys, manual clearance, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) or the use of MDD teams.

4. Demining Quality Management (QM)

The aim of demining Quality Management (QM) is to provide confidence (to the beneficiary, the demining organisation and the NMAA) that clearance and quality requirements have been met and that released land is indeed safe for use. QM for demining comprises three complementary components; accreditation, monitoring and post-clearance inspection.

4.1. Accreditation

Accreditation is the procedure by which a demining organisation is formally recognised as competent and able to plan, manage and operationally conduct demining safely, effectively and efficiently.

Accreditation is fundamental to the whole demining QM process. Having thorough and comprehensive accreditation procedures from the outset ensures that a demining organisation is established, staffed, equipped, and has the required systems, procedures and support structures in place prior to any work commencing. Furthermore, the accreditation process checks that the demining organisation is working in accordance with its documented systems and procedures and capable of achieving required standards. As a result of the accreditation process an accreditation agreement is reached with the demining organisation on the standards to which demining is to be carried out. This agreement then forms the basis for all follow-on monitoring activities.

4.2. Monitoring

Monitoring is the observation, inspection or assessment of worksites, facilities, equipment, activities, processes, procedures and documentation by suitability qualified personnel to confirm that a demining organisation is working in accordance with its accreditation agreement.

Monitoring is essentially an activity, however it may be acceptable to incorporate post clearance inspection into monitoring as a means of progressively checking the quality of clearance work. For more details see IMAS 07.40.

4.3. Post-clearance inspection

Post-clearance inspection is the process of measuring, examining, testing or otherwise comparing a sample of cleared land with the clearance requirements. Post clearance inspections supplement accreditation and monitoring and provide additional confidence that clearance requirements have been met. For more details see IMAS 09.20.

4.4. Achieving confidence

It may not be necessary for all the components of demining QM to be carried out to achieve the required level of confidence. If for example, thorough and comprehensive accreditation and monitoring (Quality Assurance (QA)) is carried out, it may not be necessary to carry out post clearance inspections (Quality Control (QC)).

This emphasises the importance of accreditation in the demining QM process.

5. Accreditation general principles

This standard makes a distinction between organisational accreditation and operational accreditation.

Organisational accreditation is the procedure by which a demining organisation is formally recognised as competent and able to plan and manage demining activities safely, effectively and efficiently. For most mine action programmes the NMAA will be the body that provides accreditation. International organisations such as the United Nations or regional bodies may also introduce accreditation schemes. Accreditation will be given to the in-country headquarters of an organisation for a finite duration, normally for a period of two to three years, or as long as they remain operational or active.

Operational accreditation is the procedure by which a demining organisation is formally recognised as competent and able to carry out particular demining activities; this may sometimes be referred to as certification in order to distinguish between an organisation's accreditation to work in a country and its accreditation for certain distinct tasks. Each operational accreditation shall refer to the capabilities required to carry out a particular activity such as survey, manual clearance, community liaison or the use of mine detection dog (MDD) teams. The granting of such accreditation assumes that the capability will not change beyond the scope or intention of the original accreditation.

In most situations it will be appropriate to award accreditation in two stages. The first stage involves a provisional desk assessment by the NMAA or its agent based on documentary evidence presented by the demining organisation, such as organisational charts, management qualifications and proven experience. The second stage involves an on-site assessment to confirm that people, equipment, materials and procedures are being used as intended, and that demining activities are being conducted in a safe, effective and efficient manner. A provisional accreditation may be provided to a successful demining organization or its sub-units after the first stage. This will allow them to prepare for implementation in the given country. A full accreditation should be issued after the second stage.

6. General requirements

6.1. Basic considerations

The basic considerations for obtaining and retaining a demining accreditation are that:

- a) the applicant shall be competent to apply the general provisions of IMAS and the specific provisions of the NMAA, including financial and insurance requirements;
- b) organisational accreditation will only be granted to a demining organisation so long as it remains in conformity with IMAS and/or with national standards and regulations; and
- c) operational accreditation will only be granted to an accredited organisation and its demining sub-units, however named, that are within the scope of the organisational accreditation agreement and are in conformity with IMAS and with national standards and regulations.

Accreditation may in practice be incorporated in the tendering process for mine action contracts, especially where a two stage contractual process is being used, when accreditation will become a major component of the pre-selection process.

6.2. The accreditation process

A summary of the accreditation process is shown in outline in Annex B, and is described in detail below.

6.2.1. Application for accreditation

The demining organisation should submit an initial application in accordance with instructions issued by the NMAA or its agents.

6.2.2. Desk (provisional) assessment of the application

On receipt of the application and accompanying documentation from the demining organisation, the NMAA shall confirm receipt of the application, and if necessary shall request the applicant to provide further information.

For organisational accreditation, the desk (provisional) assessment shall be carried out by the NMAA or its agents. This assessment should consider the applicant's:

- a) organisational structure and proposed representation in-country, including arrangements to use sub-contractors and joint ventures. Recognition should be given to other existing accreditations held by the organisation, such as ISO 9001:2008;
- b) formal qualifications and practical experience of its management team gained on previous mine action programmes. Recognition should be given to the membership of relevant, recognised professional institutes or bodies;
- c) financial situation;
- d) freedom from any outstanding or pending legal action, or any pending disputes with the contracting authority;
- e) planning and project management capabilities;
- f) logistic planning procedures, including equipment procurement, MDD administration, evaluation, maintenance and repair;
- g) financial planning and control procedures;
- h) information management systems and mapping;
- i) management training schemes and employee skills development programmes;
- j) safety and occupational health (S&OH) policy;
- k) community liaison experience and capabilities, or access to teaming partners with relevant experience;
- l) insurance cover, both staff medical insurance and third party liability;
- m) Quality Management (QM) systems; and
- n) participation in other accreditation schemes such as ISO 9000, which demonstrate the effectiveness of its quality management system.

For operational accreditation, the desk (provisional) assessment should consider:

- o) the sub-unit(s)'s organisational structure, including its logistic and re-supply system;
- p) human skills (formal qualifications and experience of its operational and support staff);
- q) equipment capabilities (equipment performance and supportability);
- r) operational procedures (SOPs);
- s) operational test results for MDD and handlers;
- t) worksite S&OH procedures and practices;
- u) previous accreditation obtained by the sub-unit which demonstrate the effectiveness of its operational capabilities; and
- v) any additional requirements of the NMAA (such as the use of sub-contractors and local labour).

Additional requirements for granting operational testing of mine diction dogs and their handlers are described in IMAS 09.42.

If the NMAA is not satisfied that all the requirements for accreditation have been met, the demining organisation should be informed as soon as possible, and reasons given for its unsuccessful application. Whenever possible, the applicant should be given the opportunity to take corrective action.

If the demining organisation is unable to satisfy the requirements for accreditation and is unable to take corrective action within a reasonable time, then the application should be terminated and the demining organisation should be informed.

6.2.3. On-site assessment

The purpose of the on-site assessment is to confirm that the management practices and operational procedures proposed by the demining organisation in its application are being applied in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

The on-site assessment shall be carried out by the NMAA or its agents. The assessment should include:

- a) visits to all management, logistic and administrative offices or facilities including explosive storage areas, medical facilities and equipment maintenance areas;
- b) visits to all sub-unit locations including worksites and supporting workplaces;
- c) observing sub-units in their final phase of training;
- d) observing the field testing and evaluation of equipment, and training and operational testing of MDD;
- e) observing demining activities; and
- f) observing community involvement throughout the project life.

During the on-site assessment, samples of documentation and records shall be selected randomly. Samples shall be representative of all products, documented procedures and SOPs for which accreditation is sought. The sampling of cleared land shall comply with the requirements of IMAS 09.20. MDD operations shall comply with the requirements of IMAS 09.41, and operational testing of MDD and handlers with IMAS 09.42

If the NMAA is not satisfied that all the requirements for accreditation have been met, the demining organisation should be informed as soon as possible. The problems should be identified and the required action discussed and agreed between the NMAA and the demining organisation. The demining organisation will then have to present its corrected management or operational procedures to the NMAA, and demonstrate that full compliance with the stated requirements has been achieved.

If the demining organisation is unable to take corrective action within a reasonable time, then the provisional accreditation should be terminated.

There will usually be a delay between the desk (provisional) assessment and the on-site (confirmatory) assessment. In this situation the NMAA should issue a provisional accreditation until the full accreditation process has been completed. Subject to the conditions of the provisional accreditation it may be necessary for the demining organisation to commence work prior to the on-site (confirmatory) assessment.

6.3. Extending or modifying an accreditation

6.3.1. Modification or changes in the management system

If the management of the demining organisation intends to make major or significant changes to its management structure, which could impact on its management capability, the NMAA or its agent may require an extension or revision of the accreditation. For this reason, the accredited organisation shall inform the NMAA of any intended modification to its management system, or other changes that may affect compliance with its accreditation. The NMAA shall determine whether the announced changes require any form of re-assessment, either desk or on-site.

6.3.2. Modification or changes to operational procedures

In the same way, the accredited organisation shall inform the NMAA of any intended modification to the operational procedures of one or more of its sub-units, or of the introduction of new or modified equipment. The NMAA or its agent shall determine whether the announced changes require a desk or on-site re-assessment.

If the changes are minor and are consistent with IMAS and national standards, then no further action should be necessary.

If the changes are significant, then the NMAA should consider conducting an on-site assessment. For clearance tasks, this will normally require a 'tightened' inspection regime (see IMAS 09.20 Annex B clause C.6.) to be temporarily applied to the post-clearance sampling.

If the changes are substantial and the conditions and scope of the original operational accreditation are no longer valid, then the NMAA should require the demining organisation to request new accreditation as defined in clause 5.2 above.

6.3.3. Increasing the number of demining sub units using the same SOPs

The accredited organisation shall inform the NMAA of any intended increase in the number of its sub units. If it is intended that the additional sub-units will apply the same operational procedures and use the same equipment, then no further action should be necessary.

If the changes are significant, then the NMAA should consider conducting an on-site assessment. For clearance tasks, this will normally require a 'tightened' inspection regime (see IMAS 09.20 Annex B clause C.6.) to be temporarily applied to the post-clearance sampling.

If the changes are substantial and the conditions and scope of the original operational accreditation are no longer valid, then the NMAA should require the demining organisation to request new accreditation as defined in clause 5.2 above.

6.4. Monitoring

The NMAA shall monitor the demining organisations and their sub-units to confirm that the management systems and operational procedures are consistent with the terms of the accreditation. Such monitoring should be random, non-intrusive and should not interfere with the conduct of the demining activities. The frequency of monitoring should be dependent on the task and the previous performance of the demining organisation; it should be agreed between the NMAA and the demining organisation.

The NMAA may appoint a body to carry out the monitoring on its behalf. Any monitoring body appointed by the NMAA shall be adequately staffed, equipped and trained to monitor the demining organisation and its sub-units in an effective and appropriate manner. Monitoring is covered in detail in IMAS 07.40.

The accredited organisation shall be informed of the results of all monitoring.

6.5. Suspension and termination of accreditation

6.5.1. Suspension

The NMAA may suspend an accreditation of a demining organisation or one of its sub-units for a limited period, for example in the following cases:

- a) if monitoring shows non-compliance with the requirements of the accreditation agreement which is of a nature that would not warrant cancellation of the accreditation; or
- b) in the case of improper use of the accreditation agreement; or
- c) in the event of failure to disclose major and significant management or operational changes.

6.5.2. Termination

The NMAA may terminate an accreditation in the following cases:

- a) if the accredited organisation goes out of business; or
- b) if the accredited organisation does not wish to prolong the accreditation agreement; or
- c) if the requirements or provisions of standards or laws are changed and the accredited organisation cannot or will not ensure compliance with the new requirements or provisions; or
- d) if monitoring reveals that non-compliance with the accreditation agreement is of a serious nature, such as repeated violations of the provisions for safety and occupational health; or
- e) if inadequate measures are taken following the suspension of an accreditation.

Serious non-compliance may include the repeated failure to apply accredited management systems or operational procedures, the refusal to allow monitoring or inspection to take place, interference with monitoring or inspections, the premature release of land or the application of processes known to place staff or the local population at unacceptable risk.

Before the termination of an accreditation agreement, the NMAA shall determine measures to be taken to re-clear land released prior to the cancellation of the accreditation agreement. The responsibility for re-clearing land and the cost of such re-clearing will either lie with the demining organisation or the NMAA. The responsibilities should be specified in their contract.

7. Accreditation body - general obligations

7.1. General

The NMAA shall establish an accreditation body. The accreditation body, however named, shall have the necessary documentation that describes its responsibilities, the methods to be used in the accreditation process, and the technical scope of its activities.

7.2. Independence, impartiality and integrity

The personnel of the accreditation body shall be free from any political, commercial, financial and other pressures that might affect their judgement. Policies and procedures shall be implemented to ensure that persons or organisations external to the accreditation body cannot influence the results of inspections, evaluations or monitoring carried out by the accreditation body.

The accreditation body and its staff shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their independence of judgement and integrity in relation to their inspection, evaluation or monitoring activities. In particular they shall not become directly involved in organisations that carry out demining, or that design, manufacture, supply, install, use or maintain services or equipment for organisations operating in the mine action sector, or similar fields.

All interested parties shall have access to the services of the accreditation body. The procedures under which the body operates shall be administered in a non-discriminatory manner.

7.3. Confidentiality

The accreditation body shall ensure confidentiality of information obtained in the course of its activities. Proprietary rights shall be protected. In practice, the proceedings of the accreditation body will not be released to anyone but the NMAA, although reasons for non-compliance with accreditation requirements should be made known to applicants.

7.4. Organisation and management

The accreditation body shall have an organisation that enables it to maintain the capability to perform its technical functions quickly and satisfactorily. The body shall have a technical manager, however named, who is qualified and experienced in the operation of the accreditation process and who has overall responsibility for ensuring that the accreditation activities are carried out in accordance with IMAS and other relevant standards. The technical manager should if possible be a permanent employee, but in the early stages of a mine action programme may be a suitably qualified consultant.

The accreditation body shall develop and maintain documented procedures. Where the accreditation body also supplies inspection and monitoring services, the relationship between its functions shall be clearly defined.

7.5. Management system

The accreditation body shall define and document its management system and procedures (including its internal QM systems) and shall ensure that its management policy is understood and its procedures are implemented and maintained at all levels in the organisation. Where its systems and procedures affect the conduct of the mine action programme, the working relationship between the body and the demining organisation should be agreed, and form part of the contractual arrangements.

The management of the accreditation body shall designate a person who, irrespective of other duties, shall have defined authority and responsibility for QA within the accreditation body. This person shall have direct access to the most senior executive of the NMAA.

7.6. Personnel

The accreditation body shall have a sufficient number of permanent qualified personnel with the range of expertise required to carry out its normal functions.

7.7. Accreditation methods and procedures

The accreditation body shall establish and maintain procedures for desk assessments and inspections defined in the requirements of this standard and other relevant standards against which conformity shall be determined.

7.8. Records

The accreditation body shall prepare and maintain records of all assessments and inspections, and any information needed to understand and interpret them. All records shall be safely stored for a period of at least five years, held secure and in confidence to the applicant, unless otherwise required by law.

7.9. Appeals

The NMAA shall establish a fair and impartial system to enable demining organisations to appeal against decisions of the accreditation body that it feels are unfair, or when new evidence comes to light.

The appeals system shall include the use of independent arbitration from the international community present in a mine-affected country; for example a representative from the UN system.

8. Responsibilities

8.1. National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)

The NMAA, or an organisation acting on its behalf, shall:

- a) establish a system for the accreditation of demining organisations and operations;
- b) specify the national standards and provide guidelines for the accreditation of demining organisations and operations;
- c) monitor the work of the accreditation body, ensure that the system is being applied in a fair and equitable manner, and that accreditation does not interrupt or delay demining projects; and
- d) ensure appropriate follow-up action is taken on the accreditation body's recommendations.

The NMAA, or an organisation acting on its behalf, should:

- e) accredit and appoint an accreditation body; and
- f) conduct periodic external QA audits on the accreditation body.

8.2. Demining organisations

The organisation undertaking demining shall:

- a) apply management practices and operational procedures which aim to clear land to the requirements specified in the clearance contract or other formal agreement;
- b) maintain and make available documentation, reports, records and other data on demining activities to the accreditation body; and
- c) provide the accreditation body with access to all sites, buildings and other facilities, which need to be visited as part of the monitoring requirement.

In the absence of a NMAA, the demining organisation should assume additional responsibilities. These include, but are not restricted to:

- d) agree with the donor a system of accrediting clearance activities; and
- e) assist the host nation, during the establishment of a NMAA, in framing national standards for accreditation.

8.3. Accreditation body

The accreditation body shall:

- a) gain from the NMAA accreditation to operate as an accreditation body;
- b) accredit demining organisations and their sub-units;
- c) assess applications in a timely manner, ensuring that delays do not impact unnecessarily on the operational effectiveness of the applicants. It may be appropriate to consider granting provisional accreditation if delay cannot be avoided; and
- d) accredit and make available documentation on site visits and inspections as required by the NMAA.

8.4. Donors

When the contract or other formal agreement has been framed by the donor organisation, it shall be responsible for including details of the national accreditation requirements, or in the absence of a NMAA, requirements established by the UN or other appropriate international body.

Annex A (Normative) References

The following normative documents contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid ISO or EN:

- a) IMAS 04.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations;
- b) IMAS 07.40 Monitoring of demining organisations;
- c) IMAS 09.10 Clearance requirements;
- d) IMAS 09.20 The inspection of cleared land: guidelines to the use of sampling procedures;
- e) IMAS 09.41 Operational procedures for Mine Detection Dogs; and
- f) IMAS 09.42 Operational testing of Mine Detection Dogs and handlers.

The latest version/edition of these references should be used. A copy of all references used in this standard can be found on the IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org). A register of the latest version/edition of the IMAS standards, guides and references is maintained by GICHD, and can be read on the IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org). NMAA, employers and other interested bodies and organisations should obtain copies before commencing mine action programmes.

Annex B (Informative) The management process for accreditation

Process description	Responsibility		
	Demining organisation	Accreditation body	Mine action Authority
Submit application for accreditation of demining sub units			
Acknowledge receipt of application			
Conduct desk assessment based on information submitted with application			
Does application and supporting information meet the accreditation requirements?		 yes no	
Notify applicant of additional information needed to process the application			
Applicant provides additional information			
Prepare plan for on-site visits and assessments			
Conduct on-site assessments			
Does demining organisation meet the accreditation requirements?		 yes no	
Advise the applicant of corrective action required			
Carry out corrective action to meet accreditation requirements			
Complete assessments required for accreditation			
Does demining organisation meet the accreditation requirements?		 yes no	
Prepare and sign accreditation agreement			
Terminate application for accreditation			
Monitor demining organisation and sub units for compliance with the accreditation			

Legend

Document		Process		Decision	
Document (multiple)		Multiple responsibility		Connector	

Amendment record

Management of IMAS amendments

The IMAS series of standards are subject to formal review on a three-yearly basis, however this does not preclude amendments being made within these three-year periods for reasons of operational safety and efficiency or for editorial purposes.

As amendments are made to this IMAS they will be given a number, and the date and general details of the amendment shown in the table below. The amendment will also be shown on the cover page of the IMAS by the inclusion under the edition date of the phrase *'incorporating amendment number(s) 1 etc.'*

As the formal reviews of each IMAS are completed new editions may be issued. Amendments up to the date of the new edition will be incorporated into the new edition and the amendment record table cleared. Recording of amendments will then start again until a further review is carried out.

The most recently amended IMAS will be the versions that are posted on the IMAS website at www.mineactionstandards.org.

Number	Date	Amendment Details
1	01 Dec 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formatting changes. 2. Minor text editing changes. 3. Changes to terms, definitions and abbreviations where necessary to ensure that this IMAS is consistent with IMAS 04.10. 4. Substantive changes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clause 5.2.2. Inclusion of new sub clause 'm'. b) Clause 6.5. Text change in first sentence. c) Clause 7.1. Text change to sub clause 'd', and a new sub clause 'e'.
2	23 Jul 2005	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clause 1, second paragraph, changes to the components of mine action that accreditation can be applied to. 2. Clause 4, second paragraph, last sentence, the inclusion of an additional clause concerning the duration of accreditation. 3. Clause 5.2.2, third paragraph concerning operational accreditation, change of a 'shall' to a 'should'. 4. Clause 7.1, inclusion of a new second paragraph that changes two of the responsibilities of a NMAA previously indicated as 'shall', to 'should'. 5. Clause 7.3, inclusion of a new sub clause c).
3	24 Jan 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor changes/additions to the first and second paragraph of the foreword. 2. Introduction, text changes to the second paragraph and the inclusion of a new third paragraph, 3. Addition of " and their field operations" in clause 1. 4. Inclusion on new clause 4 concerning 'Demining QM'. 5. Removal of the phrase "during the mine action programme" from clause 6.3.1 6. Removal of the definitions for 'demining organisation' and 'demining sub-unit' from Annex B. These definitions are included in the text of the IMAS at clause 5. 7. Removal of the word 'staffing' from the heading of Annex C and replacement with 'management'. 8. Reference re IMAS 09.41 and 09.42 were added in clause 4.2, 4.3, 6.2.2 , 6.2.3 and Annex B, Normative references.
4	01 Mar 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated definition of NMAA. 2. Updated UNMAS address 3. Removal of Annex B from IMAS series. Re-naming Annex C to B. References to annexes updated. 4. Addition of a couple of lines to the last Para - Clause 5. 5. Minor changes throughout to ensure land release, cluster munitions and gender issues.
5	01 Aug 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewed for impact of IATG development. 2. Minor typographical amendments.