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Quality Management

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Quality Management (QM)

1. Introduction

The aim of Quality Management (QM) is to provide confidence to the beneficiaries, funding bodies, the mine action contractor(s) and the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) that mine action quality requirements have been met and that cleared land is indeed safe for use. QM comprises three complementary components, namely accreditation, monitoring and post-clearance inspection.

1.1 Accreditation

Accreditation is the procedure by which a mine action organization is formally recognized as competent and able to plan, manage and operationally conduct mine action activities safely, effectively and efficiently. This makes sure that a mine action organization is established, staffed, equipped, and has the required systems, procedures and support structures in place prior to any work commencing in Afghanistan.

1.2 Monitoring

Monitoring is the observation, inspection or assessment of worksites, facilities, equipment, activities, processes, procedures and documentation by suitable qualified personnel to confirm that a mine action organization is working in accordance with its accreditation agreement. Monitoring is essentially a passive activity however it may be acceptable to incorporate post clearance inspection into monitoring as a means of progressively checking the quality of work.

1.3 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.

1.4 Achieving Confidence

Objective confidence refers to the mathematical probability of achieving the required level of clearance (sampling). Subjective confidence involves human factors such as perception, judgment and opinion (monitoring).

It may not be necessary for all the components of QM to be carried out to achieve the required level of confidence. If for example, thorough and comprehensive accreditation and monitoring are carried out, it may not be necessary to carry out post clearance inspections.

Accreditation

2. Scope

This AMAS provides standard guidelines for the implementation of the accreditation system of mine action organizations and their field operations in Afghanistan.

Although this standard focuses on mine/ERW clearance, the concept of accreditation can be applied to other components of mine action including, impact surveys, technical surveys, mine detection dogs, mechanical assets, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Battle Area Clearance (BAC), Mine Risk Education (MRE) & Victim Assistance (VA).

3. General Requirements

In accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS 07.30), accreditation is fundamental to the whole demining Quality Management (QM) process. Having thorough and comprehensive accreditation procedures from the outset ensures that a demining organization is established, staffed, equipped, and has the required systems, procedures and support structures in place prior to any work commencing, therefore:

- a) All mine action organizations intend to conduct mine action activities in Afghanistan shall obtain accreditation from Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and Department for Mine Clearance (DMC), Government of Afghanistan.
- b) Any mine action organizations seeking accreditation to operate in country shall be registered with such Ministries and/or government bodies that the laws and Government of Afghanistan may require¹.

4. Accreditation Board

On behalf of MACCA/DMC management, approved accreditation board² shall implement accreditation process of all mine action organizations in Afghanistan. Accreditation board assesses mine action organization's ability to plan, manage and conduct mine action operations safely, effectively and efficiently in compliance with AMAS and the terms of the contract. On completion of the accreditation process, the board recommends whether or not the mine action organization should be issued accreditation for which it has applied.

The accreditation board shall comprise of appointments suitably qualified and experienced in mine action field and able to apply the accreditation requirements in a fair and equitable manner. Accreditation boards have the following responsibilities:

- a) Respond and/or react in a timely fashion to queries and/or applications from prospective or currently operational mine action organizations concerning accreditation;

¹ International/National Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) shall register with the Ministry of Economy whereas International/National Commercial Organizations shall register with the Afghan Investment Support Agency (AISA). www.aisa.org.af

² MACCA/DMC management assigns and approves accreditation board for the duration of one year

- b) Assess and process applications in a timely manner ensuring delays do not impact unnecessarily on the effectiveness of the applicants;
- c) Specify and provide AMAS for the accreditation of mine action organizations and operations;
- d) Accredite mine action organizations and their sub-units;
- e) Act with independence, impartiality and integrity during the accreditation process; and
- f) Recommend the accreditation certificate authorizing mine action organizations to plan, manage and/or conduct mine action activities/tasks.

5. Accreditation Process

5.1 Organizational Accreditation

Organizational accreditation is the process by which a mine action organization is recognized competent and able to plan and manage mine action activities in Afghanistan. The following steps shall be considered when processing organizational accreditation:

- a) Mine action organization applies for accreditation and may provide evidence of bidding for contract(s) in Afghanistan;
- b) The organization submits application form to MACCA/DMC together with a copy of their documents and SOPs¹. The organization shall also submit a written declaration stating that their SOPs are in compliance with the minimum requirements of AMAS. See Annex A, the application form and Annex B, the declaration letter;
- c) After successful review of documentation, the organization shall present a detailed presentation about the organization's mine action background, in country structure, ability and competencies to conduct mine action activities in Afghanistan, to MACCA/DMC appointed accreditation board members; and
- d) On successful evaluation of presentation the organization should be issued with organizational accreditation certificate for a period of one year (see Annex C). The organization is then subject to operational accreditation process when has been contracted for any mine action projects in Afghanistan.

5.2 Operational Accreditation

Operational accreditation is the process by which a mine action organization and its sub-units and/or sub-contractors are recognized competent and able to carry out particular mine action activities in Afghanistan. All mine action organizations shall obtain operational accreditation prior to the implementation of any mine action activities in Afghanistan.

¹ SOPs should be specific to applicant organization, or if copied from other accredited organizations, the agreement of that organization shall be obtained.

On completion of the operational accreditation process the QA visits or monitoring shall take precedence and be conducted on mine action organizations' tasks for the remaining period that operational accreditation is in force. The following steps shall be considered when processing operational accreditation:

- a) The organization applies for operational accreditation and provides evidence of relevant contract(s) in Afghanistan;
- b) The type and terms of the contract may also determine the specific documentation required for operational accreditation (Copy of the SoW);
- c) Phase 1: Desk assessment¹: All aspects of the organization's capabilities shall be assessed in accordance with the terms of the contract, including planning, logistics, administration, explosive management, medical and other relevant pertinent activities such as licensing MDDs, machines² etc. Training shall be routinely and regularly monitored by the MACCA/DMC accreditation board members and/or regional specialists as applicable.
- d) Phase 2: Field assessment: This is an assessment of the organization's competencies practically in planning, managing and conducting mine action activities in an operational environment of the capacity for which the organization wishes to be accredited. The assessment shall determine that relevant activities are performed in a safe, effective and efficient manner in accordance with the internal organization's SOP, AMAS and the terms of the contract. The following applies:
 - 1) Field assessment should be started on completion of training and prior to deployment onto tasks. The MDD and Mechanical assets shall be assessed and licensed prior to deployment;
 - 2) The assessment shall cover all specific mine action and associated activities being undertaken by the organization, its sub-units and/or sub-contractor(s), if any. It will cover the competency of individuals, teams, support, supervisory and managerial elements in all relevant facets of the pertinent activity;
- e) On successful evaluation of phase two the organization shall be issued with an operational accreditation certificate indicating that the organization, its sub-units and/or sub-contractors are authorized to conduct those activities for which they have been assessed as competent. See Annex D, the operational accreditation certificate.

1) Extending and/or Modifying of Operational Accreditation

A pre-requisite condition to extend and/or modify an operational accreditation is that there shall be an amendment to the existing contract. Accredited organization shall inform the MACCA/DMC of any intended modification or other changes that may affect compliance with its operational accreditation. The MACCA shall determine whether the announced changes require any form of re-assessment, either desk or on-site. The followings conditions shall be reported by accredited mine action organization:

¹ Desk assessment is conducted during the mobilization and preparation phase of the contractor in country (approximately 4 up to 6 weeks).

² Additional requirements for granting operational accreditation to operate Mechanical and MDD assets are described in AMAS 06.05 and 06.06 respectively.

- a) Modification or changes in the management system;
- b) Modification or changes in operational procedures; and
- c) Increasing the number of sub units using the same SOPs.

If the additional sub-units are going to apply the same operational procedures and use the same equipment, then the MACCA shall consider conducting an on-site assessment of the sub-units. If the changes are substantial and the conditions and scope of the original operational accreditation are no longer valid, then the organization shall request MACCA/DMC for new operational accreditation.

Operational accreditation shall be in force for the duration of the contract. If an organization runs several contracts, the deadline for expiration should be considered and determined as per the duration of the longest contract. Operational accreditation should be updated and/or reviewed as required.

2) Suspension or Termination of Operational Accreditation

a) Suspension

Upon recommendation of the accreditation board, the MACCA/DMC may suspend operational accreditation in the following cases:

- i. Monitoring shows non-compliance with the requirements of the accreditation;
- ii. Improper use of the accreditation agreement;
- iii. In the event of failure to disclose major and/or significant management and/or operational changes.

b) Termination

Upon recommendation of the accreditation board, the MACCA/DMC may terminate an accreditation in the following cases:

- i. Expiration of the contract and the accredited organization goes out of business in Afghanistan;
- ii. The organization does not wish to prolong the accreditation agreement;
- iii. Requirements or provisions of standards or laws are changed and the organization cannot ensure compliance with the new requirements or provisions;
- iv. 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, repeated failure to apply accredited management systems and/or operational procedures;

- v. Refusal to allow monitoring and/or inspection to take place or repeated interference with monitoring and/or inspections;
- vi. Premature release of cleared land in breach of contractual obligations or the application of processes known to place staff or the local population at unacceptable risk; and
- vii. Inadequate measures taken following the suspension of an accreditation.

Before the termination of an operational accreditation, the MACCA/DMC shall determine measures to be taken to re-clear the land, released by the organization. The responsibility for re-clearing land and the cost of such re-clearing may either lie with the organization or the MACCA/DMC and such responsibilities should be specified in the contract.

c) Appeals against suspension or termination of operational accreditation

Any mine action organization willing to appeal against suspension and/or termination decisions that it feels unfair, or when new evidence comes to light, shall submit a written letter to the MACCA/DMC management. The accreditation board should be convened at the earliest and shall include the use of independent arbitration from the mine action community.

Monitoring

6. Scope

Monitoring is an essential part of the quality management process. Together with accreditation and post clearance inspections, it provides the MACCA/DMC with the necessary confidence that the land is safe for its intended use.

MACCA and DMC shall ensure that the standards, processes and procedures implemented whilst conducting mine action activities are in accordance with AMAS, mine action organizations' SOPs and contractual obligations.

7. General Principles of Monitoring

Monitoring examine the mine action organization's capability (people, equipment and procedures) and observe how this capability is being applied. External monitoring complements the organization's internal monitoring system. It verifies that the organization's Quality Assurance (QA) procedures and internal Quality Control (QC) inspections are appropriate and are being applied but it does not replace the organization's responsibility for ensuring the application of safe, effective and efficient operational procedures. Monitoring system comprises the following:

- a) Internal QA/QC processes throughout the life-cycle of a mine action project;
- b) External QA processes and procedures carried out prior to the commencement, during and on the completion of mine action activities;

- c) External QC processes restricted to confirmatory checks based on the results of external QA monitoring.

The system includes the appointment of monitoring bodies¹ to carry out the task at various levels. Any monitoring body shall be adequately staffed, equipped and trained to monitor the organization and its sub-units in an appropriate, effective and efficient manner.

8. Monitoring Bodies – General Responsibilities

8.1 Internal Monitoring Body

Mine action organizations shall ensure that adequate and suitable resources are appointed in order to implement the required internal monitoring system so as to adhere to and implement the QM system as required. This is considered as an integral part of effective command, control and supervisory procedures within the organization. The internal Quality Management policy shall be included into the mine action organization's SOP and should be adhered to during operations any time.

8.2 External Monitoring Body (Appointed by the MACCA/DMC)

The external monitoring body monitors the organization's management system and its sub-units to confirm that the management systems and operational procedures are consistent with the terms of accreditation, AMAS and the terms of the contract. Such monitoring shall be random, non-intrusive and shall not interfere with the conduct of mine action activities. The frequency of monitoring shall be dependent on the task and the previous performance of the organization and be agreed between the MACCA/DMC and the organization.

8.3 External Quality Management Body

Quality Management Body is responsible for the quality of the monitoring process and auditing the external monitoring body. This should essentially be in the form of an appraisal of MACCA quality management people at field level including existing monitoring reports and an assessment of preventive/corrective actions implemented (re-training, changes in procedures) including timelines/deadlines for implementation.

9. Monitoring Bodies – Specific Responsibilities:

9.1 Internal Monitoring Body's Responsibilities:

- a) Conduct internal QA/QC of the operational tasks in accordance with AMAS, internal organization's SOP and the terms of the contract;
- b) Record the results of the internal QA/QC monitoring conducted on the relevant organization's forms/reports ensuring all major (critical) and minor (non critical) non conformities are clearly recorded;

¹ The term "body" when further referred to within this chapter means one or more of those appointments detailed.

- c) Make available documentation concerning internal on site visits and inspections as required to the external monitoring body;
- d) Provide external monitoring body access to all sites, personnel and other facilities which need to be visited;
- e) Acknowledge conclusions/suggestions and/or recommendations made by the external monitoring body and ensure appropriate follow up action is implemented and adhered to.

9.2 External Monitoring Body's Responsibilities:

The external monitoring body shall be fully aware of all aspects of the organization's activities prior to conducting monitoring visits. The aspects include:

- a) All relevant documentation including contract (statement of work), accreditation documents, clearance plans and/or implementation plans;
- b) Copy of AMAS and internal organization's SOP;
- c) Reports from previous monitoring visits of the task and/or the team and/or the site as relevant;
- d) Results of sampling inspections and accident/incident investigation reports, if any; and
- e) All other information deemed relevant to assist the external monitoring body.

During every visit the external monitoring body shall:

- a) Conduct an inspection of at least one specific activity, completing the relevant QA completion form and associated checklist(s). As a minimum the QA completion form shall be completed; (see Annex E)
- b) Identify any non conformity and recommend appropriate action(s) depending on the circumstances and severity of the non conformity;
- c) Identify and suggest corrective actions to the organization and ensure they are implemented through a follow up plan; and
- d) Compile all relevant documentation (QA completion forms and QA checklists) and submit to the Area Manager within 24h of the visits.

10. Implementation and Conduct of External Monitoring

Prior to a monitoring visit, external monitoring body may inform the organization of the objectives and program, and any preparation required (such as ensuring the availability of certain documents or key staff). The actual date and timings of site visits may be given in advance or visits may be unannounced. Unannounced visits tend to observe organizations in their normal working mode, while announced visits tend to be more productive and less disruptive. A combination of both may be appropriate. On-site external monitoring shall include but not restrict to:

- a) Visits to management systems, logistic and administrative offices, processes and facilities including explosive storage areas, medical facilities and equipment maintenance areas;
 - b) Visits to sub-unit locations including worksites and supporting workplaces;
 - c) Visits to Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions;
 - d) Observing MRE plans and related documentation;
 - e) Observing mine action activities, including internal QA and QC processes and their implementation, and destruction of mines and ERW. This is particularly important if the mines and ERW are being destroyed in bulk away from the worksite;
 - f) Observing the level of community involvement within the community liaison function and its applicability to the mine action activities and process;
 - g) Observing the field testing and evaluation of equipment.
- 1) Management practices and documentation: External monitoring shall include the inspection of management documentation, such as qualifications, training records, insurance cover, and general occupational health practices and records. The monitoring shall also pay particular attention to compliance with the organization's Quality Plan. Samples of all documentation and records referred to above shall be selected randomly and samples shall be representative of all relevant documentation.
 - 2) Worksite safety: The external monitoring body shall assess the suitability of the worksite layout and safety procedures, and how effectively the procedures are being applied. The external monitoring body is also responsible to stop operations at a worksite if individual safety or the safety of the team or other individuals has been placed at risk.
 - 3) Clearance activities: The external monitoring body shall observe clearance activities to ensure that they are consistent with AMAS, terms of the contract and organization SOP. Where specific assets are being used, the monitoring body shall also assess the effectiveness and suitability of equipment. This may include the sample of critical equipments, the examining records of equipment maintenance, repairs, upgrades and modifications. Maintenance facilities and tools shall also be inspected.
 - 4) Storage, transportation and handling of explosives: The external monitoring body shall ensure that the storage, transportation and handling of explosives are AMAS compliant, and that the procedures are being applied effectively. The availability of documented procedures for the accountability and transfer of explosive items and accessories shall also be confirmed.
 - 5) Medical support: The external monitoring body shall assess the medical support available on site including the qualifications of the medical staff, medical equipment, stores, supplies and medicine provided to the medical staff, and vehicles for casualty evacuation. Documented procedures for treatment and casualty evacuation shall be examined. The casualty evacuation records and demonstration as required by AMAS should also be checked.

- 6) Mine Risk Education: The external monitoring body shall assess and measure the progress of a MRE task or project against stated objectives. Monitoring of MRE operations include but not limited to the following:
- a) MRE sessions and activities: to ensure they are consistent with AMAS, organization's SOPs, plan and the MAPA strategy for programme activity;
 - b) Community involvement: observing the level of community involvement within activity and assessing its impact on behavior changes;
 - c) Documentation: Action plan, update MRE Kit and materials and MRE guidelines approved by the MACCA;
 - d) MRE Personnel: on-site organization's personnel and volunteer training activities;
 - e) Safety: safety of the field staff and the level of their training in field safety procedures;
 - f) Perception of community: perception of MRE projects and programs by at-risk communities and behavioral change; and
 - g) Changes in the make-up of the target risk group.

Community liaison: This refers to the processes used to exchange information between MACCA/DMC, mine action organisations and affected communities on the presence and the potential risk of mine/ERW on the communities. Community participation is necessary at each stage of the mine action project cycle. As such shall be assessed by the external monitoring body to ensure:

- a) The needs of mine/ERW affected communities and groups are addressed;
- b) National and local development priorities are taken into account; and
- c) Mine action supports humanitarian and development activities.

11. Non Conformities

During external monitoring process, the visitor may identify non compliances with AMAS, terms of the contract and/or organization's SOPs. All instances of non conformities shall be appropriately recorded and considered. The severity of non conformities shall determine the subsequent corrective/preventive action(s) to be taken. The following provide guidance on non conformities.

11.1 Major (Critical) Non Conformities:

A major (critical) non conformity can generally be defined as a "breach" of AMAS that is considered to be life threatening. The following list, although non exhaustive, gives examples of major (critical) non conformities identified as such by the MACCA/DMC:

- a) Missing mine or ERW;
- b) Safety distances not being applied
- c) Ambulance or evacuation vehicle not available on site or not AMAS compliant;

- d) Medical equipment required for casualty stabilization/evacuation not available on site
- e) CASEVAC procedures not being practiced or recorded
- f) PPE not available on site, not worn correctly in accordance with AMAS or not serviceable
- g) Any significant deviation from AMAS that can potentially impact on safety and/or can potentially lead to a demining incident/accident (e.g. marking/clearance procedures, demolition procedures...);
- h) Improper use of Demining Assets which potentially lead to demining incident/ accident , miss mine and impacts on cost;
- i) No means of communication on clearance site
- j) Poor command/control by the command element as long as it may potentially impact on safety and/or potentially lead to a demining incident/accident; and
- k) Carelessness of deminer as long as it may potentially impact on safety and/or potentially lead to a demining incident/accident (e.g. missed signal).

There may be occasions when other major (critical) non conformities may occur. The following list, although not exhaustive, provides examples of such major (critical) non conformities that may be recorded:

- a) Repeated failure to apply accredited management systems;
- b) Lack of internal QA/QC processes;
- c) Refusal to allow monitoring or inspection to take place;
- d) Repeated interference with external monitoring or inspections;
- e) Premature release of cleared land in breach of contractual obligations;
- f) Application of processes known to place staff or the local population at unacceptable risk.

11.2 Minor (Non-critical) Non Conformities:

A minor (non critical) non conformity can generally be defined as a “breach” of AMAS that is not considered to be life threatening and/or can be rectified immediately without further training or additional resources being required/deployed. Minor (non critical) non conformities can generally be defined but should not restrict to:

- a) Any deviation from AMAS that does not potentially impact on safety and/or cannot potentially lead to a demining incident/accident;
- b) Poor command/control by the command element as long as it does not potentially impact on safety and/or may not potentially lead to a demining incident/accident;

- c) Carelessness of deminer as long as it does not potentially impact on safety and/or may not potentially lead to a demining incident/accident.

12. Confidence Level

Confidence can be subjective and objective. Objective confidence refers to the mathematical probability of achieving the required level of clearance (sampling). Subjective confidence involves human factors such as perception, judgment and opinion. Subjective confidence may be:

- a) HIGH: Management systems & operational procedures in place are fully compliant with AMAS & the terms of the contract and there is a strong perception that the cleared area will be safe for use;
- b) MEDIUM: There is still a need for the organization to improve its management systems & operational procedures in accordance with AMAS & the terms of the contract to ensure that they will remove and/or destroy all mine/ERW hazards from the area; and
- c) LOW: There are serious concerns about the organization's ability to carry out the task in accordance with AMAS & the terms of the contract and remove and/or destroy all mine/ERW hazards from the area.

Each monitoring visit shall be allocated a unique confidence level by ticking the appropriate box in the QA completion form. The confidence level should also determine the level of external quality control (sampling).

13. Suspension of Task(s)

During monitoring (in exceptional cases) there may be justification to suspend tasks for safety reasons. The following list, gives examples when the external monitoring body may suspend a task on behalf of the MACCA/DMC:

- a) Where one or several major (critical) non conformities have been observed that either individually or as a whole either cannot be adequately and effectively rectified immediately or that as a whole constitute a threat to life;
- b) Where there is a current or imminent threat from external factors to the security and safety of the organization or other personnel;
- c) When there is any encroachment into hazardous areas that cannot be resolved;
- d) Where there is a reoccurrence of minor (non critical) non conformities within a team that affect safety and identified during separate monitoring visits;
- e) As a result of a demining accident/incident.

Following the suspension of any task, the Quality Management Body shall be immediately informed. All relevant information shall be clearly and appropriately recorded. When the issues have been rectified, then on the recommendation of the Quality Management Body, the suspended tasks are

allowed to become operational again. The suspension of a task may also result in the suspension or termination of operational accreditation.

14. Re-Audit

Re-audit shall be conducted by the external monitoring body as directed by the Area Manager. Re-audit aims to identify and confirm that problems, non conformities and other such issues have been resolved. Such inspections should be conducted in an open manner in consultation with the organization's staff.

The external monitoring body shall ensure objectivity and impartiality when conducting re-audits. If after conducting a re-audit identified concerns have not been resolved, the Quality Management Body in consultation with the MACCA Chief of Operations and DMC, may re-consider the accreditation license. Re-audit should be conducted in following circumstances:

- a) After the suspension of a task;
- b) Following changes in management/supervisory personnel;
- c) Following changes in AMAS, the organization's SOP or the terms of the contract;
- d) When introducing new equipment;
- e) After completing a training course;
- f) When resuming operations after a lengthy period of inactivity; and
- g) When critical non-conformances identified and reported to organization for corrective actions.

15. Sampling

Sampling is the process of measuring, examining and testing or comparing a sample of cleared land with the clearance requirements. Sampling supplements accreditation and monitoring and provide additional confidence that clearance requirements have been met.

Internal QC: organizations shall implement a system of internal QC that accurately records all internal QC carried out in a timely fashion and that allows immediate identification of the following factors should it be necessary:

- a) Details of the individual/asset that conducts QC on a specific area;
- b) The exact areas that has been subjected to QC;
- c) The date/time that QC was conducted; and
- d) The method of QC (sampling plan).

Sampling shall be incorporated into day to day activities so that progressive inspections are carried out. Samples shall be randomly selected and carried out in accordance with the methodology and acceptance criteria clearly specified¹.

External QC: External QC process conducted by the external monitoring body restrict to confirmatory checks following QA monitoring visits where required and practicable. The following applies:

- a) Sampling may not be conducted following monitoring visits that turn out to be fully satisfactory (confidence level = high);
- b) Sampling should be conducted by the external monitoring body following monitoring visits that turn out to be not fully satisfactory (confidence level = medium) or unacceptable (confidence level = low);
- c) Sampling should be conducted in line with the sampling methodology and acceptance criteria developed by the involved organization. Records of such inspections and results shall be included in the QA completion form;
- d) If a sampling lot fails inspection, the external monitoring body shall require the lot to be cleared again. The MACCA/DMC may then decide to suspend accreditation of the organization for a pre-determined period until such time the requirements for more extensive corrective action are identified and addressed. Failed lot shall not be offered for re-inspection until the organization has taken preventive and corrective action as agreed with the MACCA/DMC.

15.1 Acceptance Criteria

A 'lot' should be considered as 'cleared' if all the samples in the lot are found to be free of mines and ERW to the depth specified in the contract and or extent of risk found during technical survey or clearance. Where any sample in the lot is found to contain one or more mines or ERW, this shall be counted as a 'critical non-conformity, and that lot shall be declared to have failed the inspection.

Cleared land may contain other indicators of potential non-conformities, such as residual metal fragments following detection by metal detectors, or residual traces of explosives following detection by explosives detectors. The presence of one or more un-disturbed pieces of metal fragment with a weight equal to or greater than the metal content of the mine with the least metal content in any 1.0 sqm unit of sampled land shall be considered as non-conformance and that lot shall be declared to have failed the inspection.

¹ Note: There may be situations where donors or commercial clients clearly direct that sampling shall be carried out as part of funding agreements or commercial contracts.