

## **10. MINE SIGNS AND MINEFIELD BARRIERS**

### **1. Standards**

The minimum specifications, required for durable and long-term marking of contaminated areas, are as follows:

### **2. Mine Warning Signs**

A square shape has been adopted for mine warning signs. Triangular sign can be used as an alternative. This is done for simplifying procedures of marking, nailing to a post or hanging on a fence.

The minimum size of a sign is to be 25cm by 25cm.

The minimum size of triangular sign is to be 28cm along the top edge and 20cm on two sides.

The minimum stipulated size of the mine sign ensures that it is clearly visible at a distance of at least 50 meters.

The background color of the sign is red, which is an internationally recognized warning of danger. The white symbols are clearly recognizable on the red background and discernible during both day and night. The rear side is white or blank.

The skull and cross-bones symbol is an internationally recognized symbol, warning of danger. It visually depicts death or serious injury and is easily identified. Mine warning signs will be printed in English and Azeri.

The word “**DANGER MINES**” is to be in bold letters, so as to be easily identified at a distance of at least 25 meters. The letters should be white to contrast with the red background.

The contrast of colors informs to the person what side of the fence is mined. The red side is to be visible from outside the minefield and the white side is to be visible from within the minefield. The sign must be securely fastened to the minefield fence.

### **3. Minefield Fencing**

*Fencing* is the most effective barrier for contaminated areas that are in places in places of frequent human and animal movements. Fencing materials, such as barbed wire, are effective barriers to humans and animals. Coated or galvanized barbed wire is usually enduring for a long period of time. Other types of materials, such as plastic rope, plastic tape etc, are only used for temporary marking.

*Strands* for fencing are to be placed at the height, which is easily visible and will not allow a child, an adult or livestock to cross without specific effort. A minimum of two strands should be used. For example, one strand placed at 50cm from the ground and the other one placed at 1.25 meters would be adequate to cause a man to lift his feet or bend over in order to penetrate the fence. This action, coupled with the visual warning of painted posts and mine signs, gives ample warning to a mine-aware individual.

*Pickets* are used to suspend fencing material and to hang or affix mine signs. Picket material can range from reinforced concrete to angle iron or wooden poles of existing fencing. The use of these types of materials may depend on their cost. Pickets will be painted in bold bands of red and white paint to attract attention and clearly indicate a warning.

Pickets must be designed according to the soil type, in which they will be placed. For example, clay type soils are capable of holding a picket in place with only a short portion of the picket below the surface of the ground, whereas sandy soil requires a much larger portion of the picket to be driven into the ground. The height of the picket must be calculated to permit suspension of mine signs at the appropriate height to ensure clear visibility in surrounding vegetation. The minimum height is 1.25 meters above the ground level.

*Fasteners* for fencing materials and mine signs must be of a material that has equal or greater durability than the product to be fastened.

*Materials*, used for all aspects of mine marking, must be durable enough to resist deteriorating forces of the environment and conform to time span of their intended use. Minefield marking material must have no economic attraction to local residents.

Fencing requires the support of a Mine Risk Education Program to educate people in the vicinity of fenced contaminated areas, to leave the fence and signs in place for their intended use. Where possible, community involvement and contribution should be encouraged to provide community ownership and responsibility.

#### **4. Marking of cleared area**

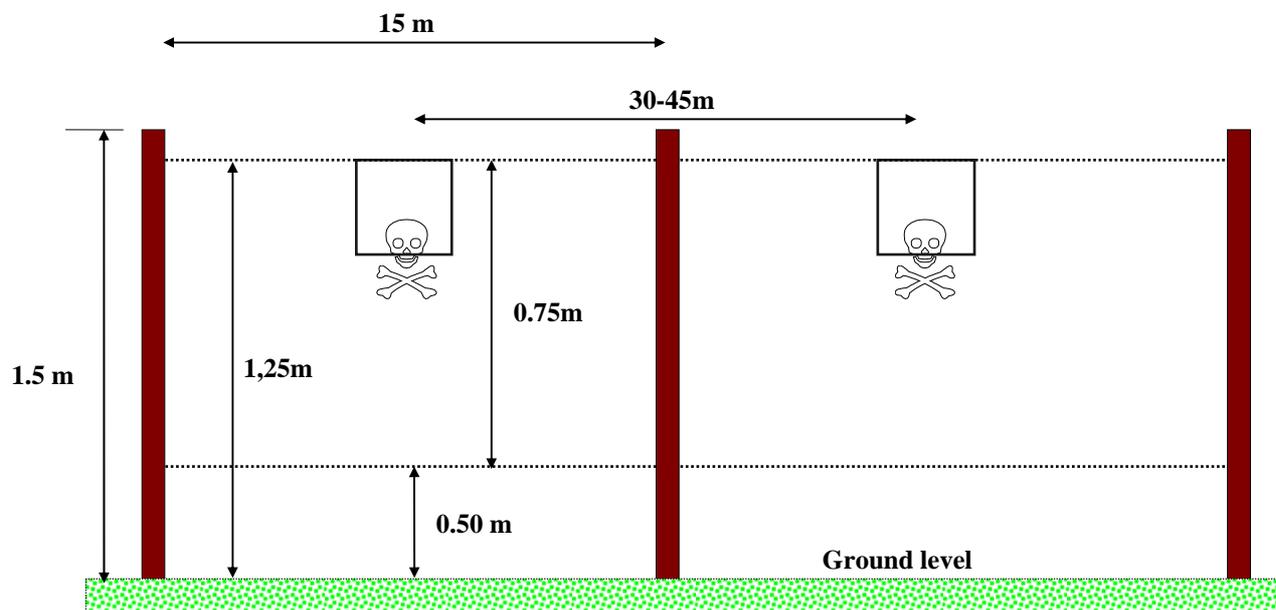
Marking of a cleared area is to be clearly visible and permanent. The cleared area marking must have the following minimum basic requirements:

When the entire contaminated area has been cleared, each corner and each turning point will have steel rods, driven flush to the ground, as a permanent marker. These rods are to be indicated on the map, submitted with the Completion Report. If the ground is such that it is impossible to drive pickets into the ground, high-visibility paint splashes minimum of 30cm in diameter may be applied to rocks, roads surfaces or walls, as an alternative to rods.

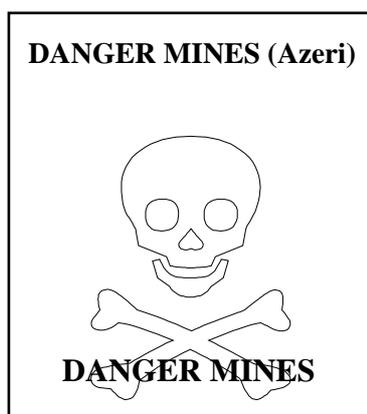
- Contaminated areas should ideally be cleared in their entirety; however, there may be cases or unavoidable circumstances, when a contaminated area can not be completed. Therefore, partially cleared areas must conform to the following marking. When possible, boundaries of areas cleared should coincide with natural or artificial boundaries, such as a road, river or the edge of a wood. If only a portion of a suspected contaminated area is cleared, and suspected or mined areas remain adjacent, then the cleared area must be fenced with a minefield fence along the line, where it joins the uncleared area. This fence is to conform at least to the minimum standard, including support pickets, appropriate to the terrain, standing at least 1.25 meters above the ground. Mine marking signs are to be fixed to the fence at intervals visible to each other. The red side of these signs is to face out, away from the contaminated area. The white or blank side of these signs is to face the minefield.
- When an area has been cleared after conducting external quality control, it is always to be formally handed over to a representative of the local or national government with appropriate certificate of clearance. A management representative of the organization, which carried out the clearance or survey operation, is to familiarize the government representative with the area. The limits and marking of the surveyed or cleared area are to be clearly and unequivocally pointed out and viewed by both parties. Once the area has been examined and both parties agree on the extent and marking of the area, a letter is to be attached to the Completion Report, stating that the boundaries of the cleared or surveyed area were inspected and agreed by both parties. This letter is to be signed and dated by both parties.

### 5. Minefield Fencing Standards

The minimum standard of the fence, required for the long-term and durable marking of mined areas, is as shown below.



An example of a minefield warning sign is shown below.



Notes:

- Pickets are to be metal posts or similar, and are to be long enough to be driven into the ground, leaving a minimum 1.5m above ground level
- Fence wire is to be arranged in such a way to create an obstacle
- Warning signs are to be red, with white letters and symbols. Rare side of signs is to be white/blank
- Signs are to be minimum of 25cm x 25cm. Words are to be in English and Azeri
- Signs should be durable to weather conditions