



**PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION
FOR
AMMENDING AN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARD,
DEVELOPING A NEW STANDARD,
OR
A NEW TECHNICAL NOTE FOR MINE ACTION**

This form is intended to provide the start point in a process that identifies both shortcomings and improvements needed in International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and their accompanying Technical Notes on Mine Action (TNMA).

After it has been properly completed and submitted, the proposal will be reviewed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the IMAS Review Board who will then include their comments, if any, and circulate it to the Review Board. If there is support for the proposal from at least 25% of the Review Board's members the process will continue.

Note 1: When the Review Board supports the subject matter, the proposal for a new IMAS will be submitted to the IMAS Steering Group for approval.

Note 2: In the event of amendments to an existing IMAS, this form will only be used when the amendments are substantial (e.g. NMAA and Mine Action Organizations may need to amend their National Standards and/or SOPs).

Note 3: When the Review Board cannot agree on a proposal, the issue will be put to the IMAS Steering Group for a final decision.

_____ (*insert name or organization*) wish to propose that the following is considered within the framework of International Mine Action Standards:

Theme or subject matter? (*Give brief description of the topic you wish the IMAS Review Board to consider*)

The theme is the ethical considerations of the use in mine action of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), also known as unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or miniature aerial photography plane (MAPP).

Rationale as to why there is a need? (*Be as specific as possible. Include where this might improve such things as safety, productivity, be beneficial to a community or a host Government – include relevant data / calculations / research as back-up information.*)

Remotely piloted aircraft systems seem very useful to mine action and might become a tool of choice in the demining toolkit but they also create some strong opposition both in contaminated countries and in donor countries. The main concerns include protection of privacy and the bad reputation of these tools because of their use as weapon carriers in military conflicts. The acceptance of these systems could be improved if it can be ensured that their use is in agreement with transparent guidelines.

State the current shortcoming and/or need for improvement of existing IMAS/TNMA that this new topic will seek to address? (max 200 words)

The use of aerial systems is quite new and is developing very fast. Even national regulations are not in place everywhere or may not be adapted to the most recent technical evolution and the ever-increasing range of applications of these tools. Mine action is a very challenging field for the use of these systems. If national regulations usually address security issues there is a current lack of international guidelines on ethical issues.

Explain the negative impact on field operations that this shortcoming will or has caused and/ or the improvement that is expected? (max 200 words)

The main negative impact of the lack of guidelines on the use of aerial systems in mine action is the risk of uncontrolled development of their use. Potential risk areas include privacy protection, responsibility and legal issues or informed consent of local population.

Explain the negative impact on the mine affected community that this shortcoming will or has caused and/ or the improvement that is expected? (max 200 words)

There seems to be a growing opposition on the use of some aerial systems. We should pay attention that this opposition, which is legitimate in some situations, may not affect the use of these systems in an ethical way in mine action. There are two opposite negative impacts on mine affected community. First if these systems are used without the informed consent of local population tensions might rise between them of the organizations using these systems. This could affect the confidence in all mine action organizations. Second, opposition to aerial systems might prevent their use and the mine affected community might be denied the benefit of a promising tool.

Are there any existing publications already dealing with this topic? (max 100 words)

RPAS stakeholders handed over a Roadmap to the European Commission on 20 June 2013 to “pave the way for the safe integration of RPAS into the European airspace stating in 2016”. This roadmap includes some ethical issues. But it is limited to the European Union and no mine action actor is involved.
See <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/aerospace/uas/>

State why this issue is best addressed through IMAS/TNMA and may not be adequately covered by support and/or endorsement of an existing or under draft publication? (max 200 words)

The immediate objective of the TIRAMISU project is to seek advice from the Review Board on the topic for a new CWA, not to suggest a new or amended IMAS/TNMA.
The project TIRAMISU has secured budget from the European Commission for a new CWA on mine action with a topic which is left at the discretion of the TIRAMISU partners. Because of contractual commitment the TIRAMISU team will do its possible to draft this CWA.
The TIRAMISU team would like the topic to be as relevant as possible. During its consultations with various mine action actors it has collected a few proposals for a new CWA.
When TIRAMISU asked for the point of view of the Review Board on the relevancy of some of these proposals, its secretary suggested filling in this form.

ANNEX A

Summary and recommendations resulting of above proposal: *(To be prepared by the Secretary or the Chair of the IMAS Review Board)*

Date received: 30 September 2013

Action: The proposal was not fully supported by the IMAS Review Board. TIRAMISU was asked to present the issue in the next meeting of the IMAS Review Board in March 2014 should it wishes to pursue the review board support.