



**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.

The participants of the GICHD Animal Detection System (ADA) workshop June 2012(NPA, MAG, MECHEM and APOPO among others) propose that the following is considered within the framework of International Mine Action Standards:

Full revision of all 5 IMAS series regulating Mine Detection Dogs: IMAS 09.40 – 09.44.

Due to recent development both within the ADS sector and the Land Release methodology, it is time for an update and revision of all 5.

There are currently 5 chapters on MDD. These should be merged to preferably 2 chapters.

Terminology

In more specific terms, there are several developments within the sector of Mine Detection Dogs which makes a revision necessary. The GICHD now refers to this thematic as Animal Detection Systems (ADS) which also incorporates the term Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD), rats and others.

There are currently no definitions for or references made to ADS or EDD in IMAS. These need to be discussed and established.

There are no references to the use of rats either, except in the REST chapter and there's a clear need to discuss other important terminology too.

Since the last revision of the MDD IMAS chapters, the very important Land Release IMAS chapters were produced and are actually already under revision. There have been a number of changes to operational terminology and practice as a result of the Land Release introduction and the MDD IMAS chapters are currently not in line with Land Release terminology.

This must be rectified as soon as possible considering the operational importance of Animal Detection within both Technical Survey and clearance.

09.40 Guide for the use of mine detection dogs

The main question is whether this chapter is necessary at all. From 11 pages in total, only 4 pages are real content and the rest are *front-page*, *contents* etc which are the same in all IMAS chapters.

The chapter offers some very general descriptions of the following issues:

- Why dogs are used for mine and ERW detection*
- How MDD can be used*
- Operational testing of MDD and handlers*
- REST*
- Occupational health and general dog care*
- Limitations on the use of MDD*

All of these rather general paragraphs can be moved to another relevant IMAS chapter as almost all of these issues are covered elsewhere. Alternatively, 09.40 and 09.41 could be merged and called something more appropriate.

09.41 Operational procedures for Mine Detection Dogs

Key issues for revision:

- The definition of MDD and the potential new definitions for ADS, EDD and others.
- Establish definitions for Animal Detector Systems (ADS), Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) and Mine Detection Rat (MDR).
- Search patterns. IMAS describes the 2 most common search patterns; the search lane system and the short-leash system. IMAS as a standard must state which search patterns are recommended/not recommended or acceptable/not acceptable. Need revision and clarification.
- Improved clarification between the use of dogs for Technical Survey compared to the use of dogs in clearance. Describe the Technical Survey process, in what ways dogs should be used and when to switch from TS to clearance.
- Add procedures for the use of Mine Detection Rats.

09.42 Operational testing of mine detection dogs and handlers

There are variations in quality between operational dogs globally. Within the sector there's agreement that the differences in quality are too large and that the current accreditation standards aren't good enough to ensure only high quality operational dogs.

There are also issues with the practical implementation which fails in several countries.

- The number of m² covered during testing will be increased to possibly 600 m².
- The maximum test targets possible in a box will be reduced from 3 to 2.
- Soak time requirements will be changed and rephrased.
- Requirements for MMD identification during testing should be introduced.
- Additional testing, like e.g. an odour substance test will be included within the accreditation test.

-Add procedures for the testing of Mine Detection Rats.

09.43 Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST)

The REST project has been completed and did not result in a functioning operational concept, but MECHEM is using MEDDS. REST will be incorporated into 09.41.

09.44 Guide to occupational health and general dog care

Will be updated to reflect current practices regarding the needs and requirements of MDD health care. There are also 4 important annexes (check –lists) which must be updated.
Add all relevant issues with regards to Mine Detection Rats.

ANNEX A

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

Proposal received: 16 July 2012

Action: The proposal has been supported by the IMAS Review Board and it's currently being drafted.