



**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.

__Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) wish to propose that the following is considered within the framework of International Mine Action Standards:

Theme or subject matter?

1: IMAS Chapters 09.40, 09.41, 09.42, 09.43 and 09.44 are not covering the general requirements for MDD training and training materials (Mines or explosives).

2: There are contradictory sentences in IMAS 09.40 which contradict IMAS 09.41.

Rationale as to why there is a need?

Details for point 1 above (**Theme or subject matter**): In Afghanistan, most of the field training areas are in insecure locations and using landmines for training, raises the risk of mines being stolen, therefore, for MDD training, organizations are using plastic bottles placing explosives inside and planting it in MDD training areas. This has seriously impacted the accuracy of detecting landmines and credibility of MDDs in Afghanistan. This can result in missing landmines in areas cleared/reduced using MDDs and raises concerns on safety of the land for locals.

Details for point 2 above (**Theme or subject matter**): IMAS 09.40, introduction para 2. States:

(There are still contradictory views about the detection capabilities of MDD and some concerns are still raised about the quality and credibility of MDD operations. Despite the doubt, MDD are used, by many, in many situations, and land is being released as a result of their actions)

IMAS 09.41 explains Operational Procedures for MDDs.

We think the mentioned para has to be removed from IMAS 09.40 in order to eliminate the contradiction. Mostly, it confuses the reader and raises the question that, why a doubtful asset is used in Mine Action?

State the current shortcoming and/or need for improvement of existing IMAS/TNMA that this new topic will seek to address? *General requirements for MDD training have to be included in one of the IMAS 09 series related to MDDs, in order for MDD Programmes to have a reference to develop their standards.*

Explain the negative impact on field operations that this shortcoming will or has caused and/ or the improvement that is expected? *Training MDDs on plastic bottles (With explosives inside), negatively impacts the work of MDDs in Afghanistan and safety of the local people will be in danger. By using the plastics boxes, trainers introduced an unwanted/new signature from the target which MDDs never face in the real life while clearing the ground. Thus, MDDs will be introduced and rewarded to find something else, not the mines.*

Explain the negative impact on the mine affected community that this shortcoming will or has caused and/ or the improvement that is expected? *As a result of poor field training materials, MDDs' detection capability is weakened by the time, and will result in missing mines in the field.*

Are there any existing publications already dealing with this topic? *There might be GICHD publication but does not address specifically this shortcoming.*

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? IMAS are highly valued by Mine Action Programmes and mostly, national standards are developed in light of the IMAS chapters.

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: 20 October 2013

Action: MDD IMAS 90.40 to 09.44 are currently under review and the issues raised in this proposal will be addressed in the revision of the IMAS.