



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

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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.

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I David Cullen of **the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW)** 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)*

An update to the IMAS Technical Note on Depleted Uranium

**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.)*

The current technical note on depleted uranium (DU) is 10 years old and was written at a time when there was relatively little field experience of dealing with DU hazards. An updated note would incorporate knowledge gained during that time and include more robust decontamination procedures, reducing the risk from DU contamination to deminers and communities living near to affected areas.

**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 current section on identification of DU in the field is quite short and the list of platforms and user states does not reflect the best up-to-date information. The decontamination procedure described in the current note is fairly rudimentary and should be expanded to incorporate best practice recommendations from UNEP and state agencies with experience of dealing with DU contamination.

**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 feedback ICBUW has received from the demining community suggests that in areas where usage is not confirmed, distinguishing DU fragments from other shrapnel and military waste is a major impediment to dealing appropriately with contamination, hence the need for accurate and expanded information on identification and user states. Better decontamination procedures will increase the scope and effectiveness of field work.

**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)** Improved decontamination procedures will help to minimize the risk to the communities living or working near to contamination. Increased confidence in dealing with DU contamination amongst the demining community may also result in a greater willingness to deal with areas affected by both mines and DU contamination, so reducing the risk from mines in those areas as well.

**Are there any existing publications already dealing with this topic? (max 100 words)** No. There are various UNEP publications characterizing contamination in different countries, but these do not constitute a guide for those who wish to undertake decontamination work.

**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)** As IMAS already has a technical note published on this issue, it stands to reason that it should reflect up-to-date knowledge and best practice. Sites which are affected by ERW and DU contamination are an acknowledged problem and present an extra challenge for demining teams, who should be provided with the best possible information about how to recognize and effectively manage the risks from these sites.

## 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:** 21 June 2013

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