



**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.

I Regional Centre for divers training and Underwater Demining 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 request SOP HUD to be adopted and become part of IMAS.

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.*)

Explosive ordnances at the water bottom from various armed conflicts are the danger and must be removed.

The fact is that IMAS/TNMA does not have the Standard for humanitarian underwater demining.

The need for the Standard for humanitarian underwater demining has been recognized by many countries affected by mines and explosive ordnances which, after the armed conflicts, have shown interests, for their economic recovery and development.

Adoption of Standard for humanitarian underwater demining shall establish higher security in relation to the execution of underwater demining, more efficient clearance of underwater mines and other unexploded ordnances, protection of interests of organizations authorized to perform the humanitarian underwater demining and establishment of higher level of trust of the end users.

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 lack is the fact that IMAS/TNMA has not the Standard for humanitarian underwater demining. Humanitarian underwater demining is the new theme of demining. Explosive ordnances at the bottom of water from various armed conflicts are the danger and must be removed. Explosive ordnances underwater are readily available and explosive they contain may be misused. By making the Standard this field shall be legally regulated thereby eliminating the threat regarding the underwater explosive ordnances.

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

Underwater explosive ordnances in sea, lakes and rivers from various armed conflicts have often caused accidents with fishermen, sailors and citizens who have used water resources for the purposes of recreation or business killed. Only military units have been dealing with underwater demining which have been removing explosive ordnances from water zones to be the obstacle for military operations. There were no civilian institutions in the world controlled by the state to train divers for humanitarian underwater demining. Forming of the Regional Centre for Underwater Demining (RCUD) in 2002 in Montenegro contributed the fight against the remaining underwater explosive ordnances. Establishment of the Standard for humanitarian underwater demining at IMAS level would improve previous development of activities as regards the underwater demining.

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)

Water polluted by explosive ordnances are the danger and obstacle to use the water resources. The explosive ordnances are dangerous to people living by the sea. Incidents resulting in death caused by underwater explosive ordnances bring fear and prevent development of activities at sea and inland waters if suspected to be polluted by mines. Taking the associated activities by international organizations like the GICHD and RCUD as regards development of standards and institutions dealing with training of divers for humanitarian underwater demining shall reduce the underwater mines danger.

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

RCUD has, during the decade of its activities, developed a program for training divers for humanitarian underwater demining. RCUD has made scripts on all kinds of underwater mines, manner of their detection, removal and destruction underwater. RCUD has, based on publications and trainings has trained six generations of underwater deminers from eight countries who have demined more than 3 million square meters underwater up- to- now.

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 issue of removal of underwater mines and other explosive ordnances is important for security because the explosives under the water are present to a greater extent than those on the land and easily accessible to criminal and terrorist groups than explosives on the land antipersonnel landmines.

Having in mind previous results and experience of **IMAS/TNMA** in resolving the mining problems on the land, we consider that in resolving the issues of humanitarian underwater demining through **IMAS/TNMA** there may be achieved good results in providing contribution to safety on waters.

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: 14 September 2012

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