



April 2013

To: Members of the IMAS Review Board

## IMAS NEWS 2013

The following is an update on some IMAS activities in 2012, including 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013, for your information.

### 1. Next Review Board Meeting

The next IMAS Review Board (RB) meeting is scheduled to be held at the GICHD on Tuesday 9 April from 4 to 7 pm, ahead of the annual International Meeting of National Directors and UN Advisor meeting, which is taking place from 10 -12 April 2013.

### 2. IMAS Steering Group Meeting

No IMAS steering group meeting is scheduled in 2013.

### 3. Overview of IMAS, TN and CWA

- > IMAS - currently, 41 endorsed IMAS are published on the website. A new IMAS 05.10 “information management” for mine action has been developed, approved and published in Sep 2012 as “draft first edition”.
- > Technical Notes - there are 15 Technical Notes (TN) published on the website. TN 10.20.01 “estimation explosion danger area” was amended and updated in 2012. The remaining TN will be reviewed and updated in 2013.
- > CWA - there are seven CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA) related to humanitarian mine action published. It’s planned that these CWA will be re-labelled either to Test and Evaluation Protocols for Mine Action or TN in 2013. See details in section 8 below.

### 4. Proposals for new/amendment of IMAS/TN

The following proposals for new IMAS/TN were made in 2012;

- a) Proposal for a TN for Chinese Type 84 Cluster Munitions
- b) Proposal for a TN for Responding to IED threat within demining operations
- c) Proposal for EOD Level 4 competency standard
- d) Proposal for underwater demining standard

The following proposals were submitted for review and revision of the IMAS;

- e) Amendment of the Mine Detection Dogs IMAS 09.40, 09.41, 09.42, 09.43 and 09.44
- f) Review of the IMAS 09.20 – post-clearance inspection (sampling) and IMAS 07.40 monitoring of demining organizations
- g) Rewrite of the land release IMAS following the NGO perspective circulated in Nov 2012.

The review board supported all the above proposals except (b) where there were some reservations

## 5. IMAS review and amendments in 2012

### 5.1. IMAS in relation to IATG

In accordance with the recommendation of the RB meeting in 2012, a complete review of the IMAS series to include IATG issues was conducted by a consultant Mr Adrian Wilkinson, who has also been involved in the development of IMAS and IATG. The review was completed in August 2012 and the final report was submitted to the RB. Key conclusions were:

- › Major amendments - were made to two IMAS; 10.50 S&OH storage, transportation and handling of explosive and 11.10 guide for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Changes included removal or rewording of some clauses and/or Annexes, and inclusion of new text and/or normative references. The RB approved IMAS 11.10 but not 10.50. The earlier was published and the latter will be debated in the RB meeting in April;
- › Minor amendments - were made to nine IMAS e.g. inclusion of a normative reference(s) to the relevant IATG and, or adding a small text. These were; IMAS 01.10, 04.10, 07.20, 09.10, 09.11, 09.30, 10.20, 11.20 and 11.30. The amendments were accepted and the IMAS were published;
- › No amendments – the remaining IMAS did not require amendments although they were reviewed;
- › TN 10.20.01 “estimation explosion danger area” was amended and updated;
- › New IMAS - a new IMAS 09.12 “EOD clearance of ammunition storage area explosion” has been recommended for inclusion in the IMAS series. Content of the new IMAS, for the most part, is the same as the IATG 11.30. This will be published once the issues are discussed in the next RB meeting in April 2013; and
- › It has been recommended in IMAS 01.10 that an IATG Representative should be invited to participate as a co-opted member of the IMAS Review Board. Similarly, it would be appropriate that the GICHD IMAS Secretary be a co-opted member of the IATG Technical Review Panel.

An article will be written to provide clarity in regard to the application of IMAS and IATG in mine action later in 2013.

### 5.2. Land release IMAS

Upon a request, the land release IMAS 08.20, 08.21 and 08.22 were amended and presented in the last RB meeting in March 2012. NPA requested more time to review the IMAS and later on, came up with an NGO Perspective draft – all three IMAS in one. It was circulated to the RB in October 2012. The draft *was not* accepted by the RB and the Chair requested the GICHD to re-establish a lead in this process, and consider a major rewrite - taking on board valuable content in the NGO Perspective together with the comments received from the RB. Accordingly, a Consultative Group was established that consisted of a broad representation of 18 participants from across the mine action sector, including national authorities (IKMAA, MACCA, CMAA), commercials (RONCO), IHL/Advocacy (ISU-APMBC, ICBL, LM & CM, ICRC), the United Nations (UNMAS, UNDP), INGOs (HALO, NPA, MAG) and GICHD. The group met over two days (29-30 Jan) and discussed the form and content of the IMAS which was facilitated by a consultant, Mr David Hewtson. As a result the IMAS were amended, circulated and agreed by the IMAS RB following agreement by the Consultative Group. The IMAS are now approved and published.

IMAS 08.20 land release has been written to allow its elevation to the management level within the overall IMAS structure and relabelled 07.11. This provides a more consistent approach to distinguishing between standards relating to the management of activity and those addressing the specific activities. As such the IMAS 08.21 non-technical survey and IMAS 08.22 technical survey are now relabelled IMAS 08.10 and IMAS 08.20 respectively. The new IMAS 07.11 land release and new IMAS 08.10 non-technical survey incorporate elements of the former 08.10 (General Assessment) and thus rendering it redundant.

These changes prompt a review of the entire IMAS series to ensure they are up-to-date.

A Plenary session is also planned on Wednesday, 10 April 2013, in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Programme Directors and UN Advisors, to highlight importance and application of the recent amendments to land release IMAS to the broader mine action community.

## 6. Review Plan 2013

The following IMAS, TN and CWA are planned to be reviewed in 2013;

### a) IMAS

- › Land release IMAS 08.20, 08.21, 08.22 (completed)
- › Terms and definitions IMAS 04.10;
- › Quality management IMAS 07.30, 08.40 and 09.20;
- › Use of mine detection dogs IMAS 09.40, 09.41, 09.42, 09.43 and 09.44;
- › A complete review of the IMAS series in relation to the new land release IMAS; and
- › Development of a new standard on underwater demining.

### b) Technical Notes

- › TN series will be reviewed and revised in 2013. This is to ensure they reflect recent development within mine action standards;
- › A new TN on EOD competency L4 will be drafted; and  
Note: CWA on EOD competencies will be reviewed, updated and re-labeled as TN.
- › A new TN for Chinese Type 84 Cluster Munitions (TBC with UNMAS).

### c) CWA

- › The following CWA will be re-labelled *Test and Evaluation Protocols for Mine Action*:
  - 14747:2003 T&E of Metal Detectors
  - 14747-2.2008 T&E Soil Characterisation and GPR
  - 15044:2009 T&E of Demining Machines
  - 15756:2007 T&E Personal Protective Equipment
  -The CWA page on the website will also be renamed *Test & Evaluation Protocols* in 2013.
- › The following CWA will be reviewed, amended and re-labelled as TN:
  - 15464:2005 EOD Competency Standards – will include EOD Level 4
  - 15832:2008 Follow-on after Use of Demining Machines
  - 15833:2008 Quality Management for Mechanical Demining

## 7. IMAS stakeholders analysis

A Stakeholder Analysis for the IMAS was conducted by the GICHD between March and May 2012. This analysis aimed to address gaps in information regarding the views of the IMAS Stakeholders through an in-depth analysis of the opinions of a sample of 58 participants from pre-identified stakeholder groups.

The analysis recorded the viewpoints of stakeholders regarding the importance of the IMAS, their satisfaction with the IMAS format and content, as well as management structures and outreach and support efforts. Key measures were recorded for stakeholder opinions both across and within the defined stakeholder groups.

The following trends emerged from the study:

- › The overwhelming view is that the IMAS are an essential component of a well-functioning mine action sector. The importance of standardization and good practice to the sector was recognized by all groups and stakeholders identified multiple benefits arising from the IMAS.
- › The very high rate of overall satisfaction expressed by stakeholders regarding the format and the general content of the IMAS. Although participants expressed some criticisms of the IMAS format, it was generally recognized that allows for easy reference and substantial clarity. In terms of content, suggested changes and additions were highlighted, but in general participants were satisfaction with the standards.
- › Unfortunately in terms of management structures, the trend was decidedly less positive. There appears to be a lack of clarity for stakeholders in regard to the management structures in place, and how field level input arrives at the technical level in terms of IMAS development and review. Similarly, there is a lack of confidence that IMAS management structures are working effectively. This appears in part to be related to limited communications outside IMAS structures and to limited visibility in regard to the outputs achieved by these various levels of management.
- › Although stakeholders frequently highlighted the importance of minimizing expenditures related to managing the IMAS, a number of areas were suggested where targeted outreach efforts could be made to assist certain groups such as new mine action programmes and military clearance operations, that may have more limited access to assistance regarding IMAS. In addition, a number of suggestions were made regarding taking advantage of advances in communications and social media, to better coordinate around issues of good practice and lessons learned, so that it could be fed into the IMAS management process.
- › Finally, translating documents and limiting language barriers to contributions and consultations, was a key element raised by many stakeholders, but most notably national mine action authorities.
- › Only nine members of the RB/SG responded to a questionnaire sent to them which was studied separately. Their pinions generally mirrored what was found in the wider study population.

## 8. Review Board membership

There are 30 seats on the IMAS review board - 28 full members and two observers.

In 2012, Mr Jurkuch Barach, National Director of South Sudan and Mr Abdel Monim Suliman, Acting Director of Sudan had retired. UNICEF's representative Ms Judy Greyson was replaced by Mr

Sharif Baaser and CNDH’s representative Mr Jean Francois Beriard was replaced by Mr Bernard Thomas. Additionally, Mr Ian Mansfield, Secretary of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) has been invited as a donor representative.

In accordance with IMAS 01.10 – Clause 12.2, there currently are six vacancies in the following categories:

- › one in donor – a potential candidate may be Japan;
- › two in national authority – a potential candidates is VN;
- › one in demining school – potential candidate may be the US HDTC;
- › one in non-affiliated; and
- › one in IATG – a potential candidate may be ODA’s Ms Gillian Goh or UNMAS’s C-IED Officer

We have also requests from the following individuals to join the RB:

- › GICHD Operations Head; Mr Guy Rhods;
- › ISU APMBBC Director – Mr Kerry Brinket;
- › Deputy Commander of Engineering (MoD) Vietnam – Sr Col Tuan;
- › Deputy Director HDTC USA – Mr Angel Belen; and
- › Daniel ZOLLER (Ltc (Ret.), NATO EOD COE DSS Specialist.

## 9. IMAS website

The IMAS website ([www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org) ) was continually updated throughout 2012. Amended, and translated IMAS and TN as well as other relevant documents, were published on a regular basis as and when available, and e-mail messages of “what’s new” were sent to all registered individuals regularly. IMAS-related questions and queries were responded to within one business day. On average, three queries per week were sent to UNMAS/GICHD. Information about the IMAS RB such as the IMAS framework, membership list, meeting minutes, work plans, stakeholder analysis, publications and other relevant documents were made available.

To improve transparency, as was suggested in the past, all proposals and justifications for new or amendment IMAS/TN, mentioned above, are posted on the Review Board page.

The table below provides a brief overview of the [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org) statistics. More details on statistics are available and can be provided on request.

Visits	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	total
2012	1691	1815	2016	1708	1722	1909	1761	1552	1614	1973	1730	1366	20857
2011	1931	1919	1948	1694	1804	1753	1537	1591	1881	1935	1938	1428	21359

## 10. RAPID

On the request of UNMAS, the GICHD designed an electronic database, known as RAPID (Reporting, Analysis, and Prevention of Incidents in Demining). The database has been established based on Information Management System for Mine Action Next Generation (IMSMA NG) in 2011.

It collects information and enables the analysis of trends in demining accidents globally. Its main purpose is to implement changes in work practices and develop safer tools and protective equipment, in order to prevent future accidents.

RAPID was launched early in 2012. Currently there are 1,375 records of accidents and 1,726 corresponding victims in the database. Data collection from the field remains a major challenge and need to be discussed in the next RB meeting. Two accidents were reported in 2012 and this has resulted in a delay of analysis and subsequent publishing of information on the website.

### 11. Translation of IMAS

Efforts continued to translate the IMAS into other languages and make them available for the mine action community, as in previous years.

Currently, 42 IMAS English, three Arabic, 37 Armenian, two in Chinese, 42 French, 28 Russian and nine Spanish translations are published.

12 TN and 6 CWA are also available in French. In 2012, the following three CWA were translated or updated in French.

- > 14747:2003 *Détecteurs de métal*
- > 14747-2:2008 *Caractérisation des sols*
- > 15833:2008 *Gestion de la Qualité équipe mécanique*.

### 12. IMAS publications

The IMAS CD ROM 2012 edition was issued in March 2012 and distributed to mine action organizations. In addition an article “relationship between IMAS, NMAS and SOPs” was published in Journal of Mine Action. Multi-language IMAS CD 2013 is under production and it includes IATG in Arabic and English as well. The following publications can be viewed and ordered through the IMAS websites:

- A series of best practice guides to mine risk education (MRE) IMAS
- A guide to IMAS 2010 edition - will be updated in 2013
- IMAS CD edition No-9/2013 - will be produced in April 2013.

### 13. National Standards

In 2012, the GICHD supported a number of mine action programmes, either in the development and/or revision of their national mine action standards. These countries included Jordan, Vietnam, and Mozambique. Up-to-date versions of national standards of 11 countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Colombia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Senegal are published on the IMAS website, as examples of NMAS.

That's all for the 2013 edition of IMAS News.

Best regards,

Faiz Paktian  
Secretary, IMAS Review Board

Attachments

- Review Board members list as at March 2013.
- IMAS Framework as at April 2013