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To: Members of the IMAS Review Board

IMAS NEWS 2014

The following is an update on some IMAS activities in 2013 and first quarter of 2014 for your information. It also includes the IMAS review plan for 2014.

1. IMAS Review Board Meeting

The next IMAS Review Board (RB) meeting is scheduled to be held at the GICHD on 3rd of April from 11:00 to 15:00 following the annual International Meeting of National Directors and UN Advisors, taking place from 31st March to 2nd April 2014.

2. IMAS Steering Group Meeting

No IMAS Steering Group meeting is scheduled in 2014.

3. Overview of IMAS

Currently, 42 endorsed IMAS are published on the website. A new IMAS 09.12 'EOD clearance of ammunition storage area explosions' has been approved and published in October 2013.

In addition, the land release IMAS 08.20, 08.21 and 08.22 were amended and re-labelled as IMAS 07.11 land releases. The IMAS 08.10 non-technical survey and 08.20 technical survey were approved and published in 2013. The new IMAS 07.11 land release and 08.10 non-technical survey incorporated elements of the former 08.10 (General Mine Action Assessment), thus rendering it redundant.

These changes prompted a review of the entire IMAS series which was completed during the second half of 2013. All IMAS for the impact of the amended land release have now been updated and published.

Moreover, IMAS 10.50 was reviewed and a new Edition 3 was circulated, approved and published in 2013. The IMAS series is now in complete harmony with the IATG.

4. Overview of Technical Notes

There are 15 Technical Notes (TN) published on the IMAS website. They were reviewed, updated and re-published in 2013.

5. Overview of CWA

There are seven CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA) related to humanitarian mine action published. As agreed in the last RB meeting, the following CWA are now labelled *Test and Evaluation Protocols for Mine Action*, pending RB approval:

- > 15464:2005 EOD Competency Standards – update, included L3+, re-labelled *T&EP* and circulated to the RB, pending approval
- > 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

Once the T&EP on EOD Competency Standards is approved, the remaining CWA will follow suit and the CWA webpage will be renamed *T &EP* in 2014.

The following CWA will be reviewed, amended and re-labelled as TN in 2014:

- › 15832:2008 Follow-on after Use of Demining Machines
- › 15833:2008 Quality Management for Mechanical Demining

In addition, TIRAMISU submitted two proposals for new CWA in 2013:

- › CWA on ethical use of remotely piloted aircraft systems
- › CWA on effectiveness of machines in technical survey

The RB requested further information on these topics. TIRAMISU is invited to the next RB meeting to present on these topics. TIRAMISU also plans to update CWA 15756:2007 T&E Personal Protective Equipment which had been withdrawn due to problems in the test regime.

6. Proposals for new/amendment of IMAS/TN

In 2013, three proposals for new IMAS/TN were submitted to the RB for acceptance:

- a) Proposal for amendment of IMAS Mine Detection Dogs, 09.40-09.44
- b) Proposal for amendment of TN on clearance of Depleted Uranium Hazards
- c) Proposal for new standard Humanitarian Underwater Demining

The review board supported all of the above proposals. Advisors/subject specialists are invited to update the RB on their plans.

7. Review Plan 2014

Subject to approval of the RB, the following IMAS, TN and CWA are to be reviewed and updated in 2014:

- a) IMAS
 - › Development of IMAS on quality management system in mine action (2015)
 - › Development of a new standard on underwater demining (2015)
 - › Update quality management IMAS
 - 07.30 Accreditation of demining organisations
 - 08.40 Monitoring of demining organisations
 - 09.20 Post-clearance inspections.
 - › Review and revision of the MDD IMAS
 - 09.40 Guide for the use of MDD
 - 09.41 Operational procedures for MDD
 - 09.42 Operational testing of MDD and handlers
 - 09.43 Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST)
 - 09.44 Health and general MDD care.
 - › Review and revision of the IMAS 10.70 protection of the environment
 - › Review and revision of the IMAS 04.10 terms and definitions

- › Upon completion of the amendments to the QM series IMAS, a complete review of the IMAS series will be conducted to look at the impact of these IMAS on the others.

b) Technical Notes

Pending approval of the EOD competency standards – the following new TN will be submitted for approval to the RB:

- › TN 09.31.4 Guided Missiles
- › TN 09.30.13 IEDD
- › TN 09.31.02 Chemical EOD
- › TN 09.31.02 Alternative demolition

The following TN will be reviewed and updated to reflect impact of the new EOD competency standards:

- › TN 09.30/01 Clearance of ARVs
- › TN 09.30/02 Clearance of DU Hazards in conjunction with International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons.
- › TN 09.30/03 Guidance on liquid propellant fuel systems
- › TN 09.30/04 Fuel air explosive systems
- › TN 09.30/06 Clearance of cluster munitions based on experience in Lebanon

c) CWA/T&EP

Please refer to section 5 above for the review and revision of the CWA/T&EP.

8. Review Board membership

There are 30 IMAS review board members - 25 full members and five observers. Four of the observer members were invited in 2013.

In 2013, DDG's representative Mr Roger N. Fasth was replaced by Mr Nick Bray; HALO's representative Mr Richard Boulter was replaced by Mr Goran Tomasevic; UNDP's representative Mr Tim Horner was replaced by Ms Sara Sekkenes; and Belgian Military's representative Mr Guy De Decker was replaced by Major Gunther Haustrate. Additionally, HTDC's representative Mr Angel Belen was invited to the humanitarian demining schools category, Vietnam's representative Sr Col Tuan was invited to National Authority category and Mr Tim Horner was invited to the independent category. Mr Guy Rhodes, GICHD, Mr Kerry Brinkert, ISU-APMBC and Mr Mark Albe, NAOC, have been invited to join the RB as observer members in April 2013. We are waiting for PAICMA (Colombia) to introduce a replacement for Mr Pablo Parra who had left PAICMA.

9. IMAS Outreach

- › Importance and application of the amendments to land release IMAS were highlighted in a plenary session in the 16th meeting of National Programme Directors and UN Advisors.
- › The GICHD Operations Consulting division carried out IMAS outreach missions in DRC and Mozambique and conducted land release and information management workshops for countries in the MENA region.
- › IMAS Training/outreach missions were carried out in the JMU (Senior Managers Course), BiH, Ukraine.

- › Additionally, IMAS presentations provided as part of trainings/workshops held at the GICHD in Geneva or elsewhere e.g. PfP training courses in Geneva and AOP workshop in Kuwait.

10. Support in the development of National Standards

In 2013, the GICHD supported a number of national mine action programmes, either in the development and/or revision of their national mine action standards, including Tajikistan, Georgia Sudan, DRC and Mozambique.

Up-to-date versions of national standards of 13 countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Colombia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Senegal and Turkey are published on the IMAS website.

11. IMAS website

The IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org) was continually updated throughout 2013. Amended and translated IMAS, TN as well as other relevant documents were published on a regular basis as and when available. E-mail updates of “what’s new” were sent to all registered individuals regularly. IMAS-related questions and queries were responded to within one business day. Information about the IMAS RB, such as the IMAS framework, membership list, meeting minutes, work plans and other relevant documents, were made available. In 2013, an online glossary of mine action terms and definitions was established and, upon feedback, a new page called ‘Proposals’ were created. It contains proposals and justification for new/amendments IMAS submitted to the RB and action that has been taken following the submission. There is a request that the RB communications should also be posted on the website. The issue will be discussed in the next RB meeting.

The IMAS website will undergo a major update and restructure in 2014. The current 11 menu items on the homepage will be reduced to three. Each menu item will have a dropdown list which will navigate to the sub-pages. This will make navigation and access to the required documents faster and easier. The update and restructure will be completed by the end of April.

The table below provides a brief overview of the number of visits to www.mineactionstandards.org. 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
2013	1712	1490	1764	1729	1594	1394	1545	1514	1467	1740	1663	1455	19067
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

Note: The three most visited pages are; list of IMAS, glossary and NMAS. The most popular IMAS downloaded in 2013 has been IMAS 04.10.

12. Translation of IMAS

Efforts continued to translate the IMAS into other languages and make them available for the mine action community.

Currently, there are 42 IMAS in English, 8 translations in Arabic, 37 in Armenian, 2 in Chinese, 37 in French, 29 in Russian, 6 in Spanish and 9 in Ukrainian published on the IMAS website and are also available on the IMAS USB card 2014. 15 TN and 6 CWA are also available in French.

16 IMAS are planned to be translated into Arabic and all the remaining IMAS in French will be updated in 2014.

13. IMAS publications

We have stopped production of the IMAS CDs. In 2014, IMAS USB cards will be produced progressively as needed with up-to-date IMAS, their translations and IATG. 300 cards are planned to be produced and distributed during the National Directors and UN Advisors meeting. They will also be made available to members of the IMAS RB. Additional cards will be produced with up-to-date IMAS and associated document during the year as and when needed. Whether to update an online version of the Guide to IMAS will be discussed at the next RB meeting.

14. RAPID

The database of demining accidents, RAPID (Reporting, Analysis and Prevention of Incidents in Demining), has been maintained and upgraded in 2013. RAPID is now integrated in the IMSMA V6. In addition, the database is linked to the Mine Action Intelligence Tool (MINT), a tool that facilitates exploring data online, creating digital dashboards and scheduling report executions. As such, it complements IMSMA and RAPID and leverages the analysis and decision support of information management. MINT can be used with IMSMA V6 and any other structured data and thus act as a single entry point to various information.

In 2013, collective and individual follow-up emails were sent to national focal point of 59 countries on a quarterly basis. 24 accidents and 45 victims were received throughout the year, in that, there are 16 accidents happened in 2013 with 23 victims involved. Information received has been included in the database. Currently, the database includes 1,399 accident records with 1,771 victims involved. However, collecting demining accident data from national programmes remains a huge challenge. Another challenge is incomplete data – some national programmes do not collect such data. They need to upgrade their SOPs and data collection forms.

GICHD has conducted an analysis of the data at the end of 2013. A presentation of the results through MINT will be made at the RB meeting.

Note: 28 of 59 countries did not respond to our requests. Three countries reported that they had no accidents.

Best regards,

Faiz Paktian
Secretary, IMAS Review Board