



International Ammunition Technical Guidelines

IMAS Review

20 September 2012

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IATG Review of IMAS (V.2), 20 September 2012

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Contents

Contents	ii
IATG Review of IMAS	3
1 Introduction	3
2 Aim and scope	3
2.1 Aim and objectives	3
2.2 Scope of work	3
3 Key questions	3
4 Summary of IATG impact on IMAS	6

IATG Review of IMAS

1 Introduction

Explosive Capabilities Limited were retained by the GICHD to undertake a review of IMAS to ensure that the requirements for compliance with the 2011 Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) are included in the appropriate IMAS.

2 Aim and scope

2.1 Aim and objectives

The aim of this review is *'to ensure that the contents of IMAS are in compliance with appropriate requirements of IATG'*.

The objectives of this review are:

- To ensure IMAS compliance with appropriate requirements of IATG; and
- To make recommendations to ensure future synergy and compliance between IMAS and IATG.

2.2 Scope of work

The scope of work as instructed by GICHD was:

- Desk study of IMAS and IATG;
- Consult custodians of IMAS and IATG;
- Answer key questions; and
- Desk study of other associated documents (for example TNMA).

3 Key questions

Table 1 summarises the key questions posed by the GICHD and the responses identified. Where appropriate the responses are expanded on in subsequent text?

Question		Response
1	What IMAS require updating?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Table 2 summarises the degree of updating required throughout the IMAS series.▪ Recommended amended versions have been submitted under separate cover.▪ All IMAS have been reviewed and minor typographical amendments made where necessary to ensure consistency in layout throughout the series, and in compliance with the ISO layout ideal.

Question		Response
2	What IMAS should be removed from the framework of IMAS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMAS 07.42 may be removed from the IMAS Framework as it is covered in detail in IATG 10.10 Demilitarization and destruction. ▪ IMAS 11.10 is redrafted to cover APM specific elements of destruction to support the contents of IATG 10.10. ▪ IMAS 11.20 and IMAS 11.30 are redrafted to cover APM specific elements of destruction to support the contents of IATG 10.10.
3	Under what circumstances the mine action community should be referred to IATG?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally IATG will only impact on mine action in the areas of ammunition storage, and the clearance of explosions in Ammunition Storage Areas. ▪ Otherwise the impact is minimal. (See Q5).
4	How IMAS should address the issues of ERW and stockpiles?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The processes for dealing with ERW are well covered within IMAS. ▪ Recommended links within the appropriate IMAS have been made to specific IATG for those areas where mine action activities may impact on ammunition storage facilities. ▪ Recommendations have been made for changes in IMAS 09.11 BAC to cover the EOD clearance of Ammunition Storage Area explosions. IATG 11.30 covers this in detail, and it may be appropriate that a NEW IMAS 09.12 be developed, which is virtually a direct copy of IATG 11.30. The principles of IMAS do state that where a standard already exists then all we should do is to refer to it; but in this particular case an exception could be considered.
5	How should IMAS and IATG be differentiated from each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They are clearly two separate sets of standards or guidelines, and should remain so. ▪ IMAS deals with the mine action process across all of its pillars, whereas the IATG deal specifically with the technical requirements for safe, effective and efficient storage, processing, transport and disposal of ammunition, (mainly at the logistic level). ▪ IATG are more akin to recommended technical instructions, (i.e. How to Do?). Whereas the IMAS consider the compliance requirements for mine action processes (i.e. What to Do?).

Question		Response
6	How should IMAS and IATG be updated coherently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. Their duties would be to ensure that any amendments to IATG that had the potential to impact on, or conflict with, IMAS were appropriately considered and discussed. ▪ An UNMAS representative (C-IED Officer) already works closely with the IATG Technical Review Panel, and it may be appropriate that the same individual be the IATG Representative on 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. This would ensure that; 1) any proposed changes to IMAS that may impact on IATG are also identified; and 2) that the IMAS 'system' has a deeper understanding of the rationale for any changes to IATG that may impact on IMAS. ▪ This is an issue for UNMAS/GICHD to discuss with the Conventional Arms Branch (CAB) of UN ODA.¹ ▪ Future updates to IATG that could impact on mine action are anticipated to be unusual, as they are based on explosive science and trials. IATG are only likely to change significantly when there are; 1) advances in ammunition technology (for example Insensitive Munitions); 2) changes to the UN Hazard Classification system; or 3) safety distances are refined as a result of further trials or advances in protective materials. ▪ Other updates to IATG are unlikely to impact on IMAS as they will be related to the impact of international agreements, such as an Arms Trade Treaty, on the Inventory Management of ammunition and explosives at the national level.
7	How should IMAS and IATG be disseminated effectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMAS already has an effective dissemination system through UNMAS and the project website. ▪ UN ODA are currently developing their strategy for IATG outreach and implementation, so it would be inappropriate to comment further until this is made public. UNMAS/GICHD should liaise direct with UN ODA on this issue.
8	How should national standards refer to these two sets of standards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The majority of IATG could easily be adopted as national explosive safety standards should; 1) a State wish to do so; and 2) the appropriate resources were allocated. This is because they are written primarily as a 'How to Do' document, rather than the 'What to Do' style that is IMAS. ▪ IMAS does not, for example, lay down how to clear an area of land. Whereas, for example, IATG are very specific about the safety distances to be imposed around ammunition storage areas to ensure public safety.
9	Should these two sets of standards merge into one?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. (See Q5).

Table 1: Key questions

¹ Initial contact should be the SaferGuard Project Officer, Gillian Goh (gohg@un.org).

4 Summary of IATG impact on IMAS

Table 2 illustrates the degree of amendment to IMAS necessary in order to be also compliant with IATG.

IMAS	TITLE	IMAS TYPO CORRECTION OR MINOR UPDATE	MINOR IATG CHANGE	MAJOR IATG CHANGE	WITHDRAW IMAS
01.10	Guide for the application of IMAS		X		
02.10	Guide for the establishment of a mine action programme	X			
03.10	Guide to procurement of mine action equipment	X			
03.20	The procurement process	X			
03.30	Guide to the research of mine action technology	X			
03.40	Test and evaluation of mine action equipment	X			
04.10	Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations		X		
06.10	Management of training	X			
07.10	Guide for the management of demining operations	X			
07.20	Guide for the development and management of mine action contracts		X		
07.30	Accreditation of demining organizations and operations	X			
07.40	Monitoring of demining organizations	X			
07.42	Monitoring of stockpile destruction programmes	X			
08.10	General mine action assessment	X			
08.20	Land release	X			
08.21	Non-technical survey	X			
08.22	Technical survey	X			
08.30	Post-clearance documentation	X			
08.40	Marking mine and ERW hazards	X			
09.10	Clearance requirements		X		
09.11	BAC		X		
09.12	EOD clearance – ammunition storage area explosions	Recommended New IMAS			
09.20	Guidelines for the use of sampling procedures	X			
09.30	Explosive ordnance disposal		X		
09.40	Guide for the use of MDD	X			
09.41	Operational procedures for mine detection dogs	X			
09.42	Operational testing of MDD and handlers	X			
09.43	Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST)	X			
09.44	Guide to occupational health and general dog care	X			
09.50	Mechanical demining	X			
10.10	S&OH general requirements	X			
10.20	S&OH demining worksite safety		X		
10.30	S&OH PPE	X			
10.40	S&OH medical support to demining operations	X			
10.50	S&OH storage, transportation and handling of explosives			X	
10.60	S&OH reporting and investigation of demining incidents	X			
10.70	S&OH protection of the environment	X			
11.10	Guide for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines			X	
11.20	Principles and procedures for open burning and open detonation operations		X		
11.30	National planning guidelines for stockpile destruction		X		

IMAS	TITLE	IMAS TYPO CORRECTION OR MINOR UPDATE	MINOR IATG CHANGE	MAJOR IATG CHANGE	WITHDRAW IMAS
12.10	Mine and ERW risk education	X			
14.10	Guide for the evaluation of mine action interventions	X			
TNMA 10.20	Explosion Danger Areas				

Table 2: Summary of amendments to IMAS