

Terms of Reference (Draft as of 25/6/2012)

Review and amendment of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in relation to the International Ammunitions Technical Guidelines (IATG)

Purpose

The overall aim of the review and revision of the IMAS is to ensure that IMAS are up-to-date, relevant and consistent with the International Ammunitions Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The review will provide recommendations to the IMAS Review Board about specific amendments to be made to the relevant IMAS. The review will also make recommendations as how these two sets of standards, currently maintained by two entities, will be maintained and disseminated to the broader mine action community in a coherent, sustained, and effective manner.

Where action is required at the national level, this review should also provide specific recommendations to the national authorities in relation to the development or amendments of the national mine action standards.

About IMAS

The IMAS are the mine action community standards endorsed by the United Nations (UN). They have been developed to improve safety and efficiency, and to promote a common and consistent approach to the conduct of mine action operations. IMAS follow the format of the International Organization for Standards (ISO) and draw on the three main treaties in international law that deal with landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

- 1) The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
- 2) Amended Protocol II and Protocol V to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
- 3) Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

In addition, IMAS provide general information on existing regulations and treaties which affect mine action, particularly those referring to basic human rights, clearance requirements, hazard marking and general safety issues.

The central purpose of the IMAS is to assist national mine action authorities (NMAA) in the development of national mine action standards (NMAS). The IMAS can be adopted as the national standards where the United Nations or another international body temporarily assumes the responsibility of a NMAA. In such cases, IMAS will be the de facto national standards until appropriate local modifications have been put in place. They can also provide the framework for legal contracts between donors and implementing organisations. The IMAS are the source for the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and training material in mine action.

UNMAS is the office within the United Nations responsible for the development and maintenance of IMAS. UNMAS has delegated the work of development, review and outreach of IMAS to the GICHD. The GICHD develops and maintain IMAS in close consultation with the broader mine action

community represented by the IMAS Review Board. The Review Board is made up of members of the UN agencies, donors, national authorities, national and international NGOs, commercial companies, militaries and subject specialists.

About IATG

In 2008, a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts reported to the General Assembly on problems arising from the accumulation of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles. The group noted that cooperation with regard to effective stockpile management needs to endorse a 'whole life management' approach, ranging from categorisation and accounting systems – essential for ensuring safe handling and storage and for identifying surplus – to physical security systems, and surveillance and testing procedures to assess the stability and reliability of ammunition.

A central recommendation made by the Group was for technical guidelines for the stockpile management of ammunition to be developed within the United Nations.

Subsequently, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Group and strongly encouraged States to implement its recommendations. This provided the mandate to the United Nations for developing 'technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition', now commonly known as International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising these guidelines was conducted under the United Nations Safeguard Programme by a technical review panel consisting of experts from Member States, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. These IATG will be regularly reviewed to reflect developing ammunition stockpile management norms and practices, and to incorporate changes due to amendments to appropriate international regulations and requirements.

Currently, there are 12 chapters of IATG published on the UNODA website. A link to these guidelines is also established on the IMAS website. IATG chapters include:

1. Introduction and Principles of Ammunition Management
2. Risk Management
3. Ammunition Accounting
4. Explosive Facilities (Storage - Field and Temporary Conditions)
5. Explosive Facilities (Storage - Infrastructure and Equipment)
6. Explosive Facilities (Storage - Operations)
7. Ammunition Processing
8. Transport of Ammunition
9. Security of Ammunition
10. Ammunition Demilitarisation and Destruction
11. Ammunition Accidents, Reporting and Investigation
12. Ammunition Operational Support

Key issue

IMAS are the mine action community standards for addressing issues of mines and ERW, including unexploded sub-munitions. With the endorsement of the IATG, there are now two sets of standards in the public domain with which to comply. They are maintained and outreached by two different

entities. While IATG are more up-to-date and relevant to ammunition safety and management, and IMAS are dealing with both mine and ERW, including stockpile destruction, there is a question – which set of standards should be followed by the national authorities and demining organizations when it comes to addressing ERW. The two sets of standards should either be separated by removing overlapping issues and inserting cross references, or merged in an effective manner under a single title.

Key questions are:

1. What IMAS require updating?
2. What IMAS should be removed from the framework of IMAS?
3. Under what circumstances should the mine action community be referred to ITAG?
4. How IMAS should address issues of ERW and stockpiles?
5. How should IMAS and IATG be differentiated from each other?
6. How should IMAS and IATG be updated coherently?
7. How should IMAS and IATG be disseminated effectively?
8. How should national standards relate to these two sets of standards?
9. Should these two sets of standards merge into one?

Evaluation methods

- Desk study of IMAS and IATG documents
- Interview those responsible for managing IMAS and IATG
- Desk study of other associated documents

Expected outputs

- Propose changes to current IMAS; in particular, to those relevant to ERW and stockpile destruction
- Deliver a final report that includes recommendations as how these two sets of standards could be maintained and outreached in a coherent manner. The final report should also include specific recommendation in relation to the development of national standards.

Duration

- Maximum of 12 working days in July 2012

Assessment Team

- A consultant from mine action sector who has been involved in the development of IMAS and IATG