



6 March 2010

To: Members of the IMAS Review Board

IMAS Review Board-News

The following is an update on some IMAS activities for your information.

1. Next Review Board Meeting

The next IMAS Review Board (RB) meeting is scheduled to be held at the GICHD in Geneva on 19 March following the UNMAS National Directors meeting planned for 15 -18 March 2010.

2. IMAS Steering Group Meeting

This year an IMAS Steering Group (SG) meeting will also take place ahead of the IMAS Review Board meeting at the GICHD on 19 March 2010. This will be the first IMAS SG meeting since 2004. The RB members will be briefed on decisions made at the SG meeting.

3. Overview of IMAS

There are currently 47 endorsed IMAS published on the IMAS website. In 2009, IMAS 08.20 land release, IMAS 08.21 non-technical survey, and IMAS 08.22 technical survey were approved by the RB and later endorsed by the IACG. Former IMAS 08.20 technical survey has been removed and replaced by the new IMAS 08.22. IMAS 08.10 general mine action assessment remained posted pending the approval of the RB of IMAS 05.10 information management in 2010.

The following IMAS are in various stages of drafting and are expected to be circulated to the RB for approval in 2010:

- a) IMAS 05.10 information management;
- b) IMAS 09.51 demining machine operator's safety;
- c) IMAS 09.52 application of demining machines;
- d) IMAS 09.53 QA/QC after mechanical clearance; and
- e) IMAS 12.10 Risk Education (all in one).

In addition, the following new IMAS are under consideration subject to the approval of the SG/RB, and will be discussed in the next RB meeting.

- f) IMAS – guidelines on community liaison;
- g) IMAS – guidelines on Field Risk Assessment;
- h) IMAS – guidelines on priority setting;
- i) IMAS – guidelines on support to victims; and
- j) IMAS – clearance of cluster munitions.

4. Overview of TNMA

There are 15 TNMA including a TNMA on Field Risk Assessment which was drafted and approved in December 2009. TNMA 09.30-06/2008 on clearance of cluster munitions was reviewed in Jan 2010 in support of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and has been validated for another year. A number of TNMA are planned to be written in the future; however, there is a growing concern over the relevance of the TNMA. The question is: why a TNMA should be developed when it is neither a legal document nor an IMAS? To what extent are demining organisations required to follow the requirements of a TNMA? If the RB is to approve a TNMA,

why they should not be called an IMAS? The issue will be discussed in the next RB meeting. The RB will also re-confirm or decline the need for the following planned TNMA:

- k) TNMA on landmine injuries and surveillance (UNICEF);
- l) TNMA on medical capabilities;
- m) TNMA on task dossier for mine action;
- n) TNMA on non-technical survey;
- o) TNMA on technical survey; and
- p) TNMA on facilitation of mine action operations.

5. IMAS Review and Amendments

Three individual reviews of IMAS were conducted in 2009 to ensure that they are up to date and in compliance with the recent developments in the mine action sector.

- Gender Review of IMAS

The Swiss Campaign to Ban landmines (SCBL), under a contract from the GICHD, conducted a review of all the IMAS from Jan to Feb 2009. They developed a checklist for those drafting future IMAS on how to ensure gender issues are considered within each set of standards, reviewed all standards (47) and recommended minimum changes, from a gender perspective, based on selected criteria. They also undertook an analysis of the RB with some recommendations on how it could be more gender balanced and, finally, drafted a report summarising the main findings. It was agreed that the RB will consider recommendations of the SCBL, where relevant, progressively during the regular revision of the IMAS.

- Land Release Review of IMAS

The introduction of the three new land release IMAS in June 2009 made evident the requirement for a thorough review of all the IMAS to ensure that the land release concept was fully integrated into all series of IMAS, and that references and new terminologies were updated in the IMAS. This review was carried out in close consultation with UNMAS during Sep - Oct 2009.

- Cluster munitions review of IMAS

The CCM refers to the International Standards and IMAS precisely in two places: in Section 3 of article 4 Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and Section 2 of article 3 Storage and stockpile destruction. To ensure that IMAS are in compliance with CCM, a review of the IMAS was needed. As such, the IMAS were reviewed in consultation with the relevant staff members of the GICHD and UNMAS in Nov - Dec 2009. As a result, minor amendments were made to all the IMAS and clearance and stockpile destruction IMAS were slightly more amended to ensure cluster munitions issues were addressed adequately. IMAS related to stockpile destruction (07.42, 11.10, 11.20 and 11.30) will be reviewed further and may be removed or restructured, subject to the approval of the RB, when the UN IATG are available later in 2010. See Section 8 below for more information on UN IATG.

As a result of these reviews, different changes were made to the IMAS, and the amended versions of the IMAS were circulated to the RB for approval in Feb 2010. Final amendments will be made based on comments received from the RB, and a revised set of IMAS is planned to be published in April 2010.

- Other review of the specific IMAS

In addition to the above reviews, IMAS 04.10 glossary of terms and definitions was updated with all amended and new definitions included. A second edition of IMAS 09.30 EOD was approved

and published. IMAS 10.30 was amended and the requirement for PPE was lowered. The safety distance table in Annex C to IMAS 10.20, worksite safety, was amended and published in 2009.

Moreover, the seven MRE IMAS were reviewed as planned in conjunction with UNICEF and the MRE Advisory Group. As a result, the seven standards were restructured and reduced to one IMAS, and an additional IMAS on community liaison was proposed for consideration. GICHD and UNICEF are currently addressing comments received from different stakeholders and a revised draft will be distributed to the members of the RB in April 2010. An update will be provided at the next RB meeting as well.

6. Review Board Membership

There are currently 29 members and two observers to the IMAS RB. Since 2009, a number of members were either newly invited or replaced on the RB. New members were Mr. Steinar Essen from NPA, Mr. Dave McDonnell from Armour Group UK and Mr. Jean-Francois Beriard from the Humanitarian Demining School of Angers, France. Other changes were the replacement of Mr. Don McDonald from DDG by Mr. Fredrik Pålsson (TBC), Mr. Mark Buswell from MAG by Mr. Nick Guest, Mr. Luc Moerman from military Belgium by Mr. Guy De Decker, and more recently Mr. Bill Walenius from RONCO replaced by Robert Gannon (TBC). Mr. Noel Mulliner, the Chair of the RB, has retired at the end Feb 2010 and has been replaced by Mr Chris Clark from UNMAS. For more detail see list of IMAS RB members attached.

7. CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA)

Seven CWA have been published in relation to humanitarian mine action. They are:

- 1) CWA 14747:2003| Test and Evaluation of Metal Detectors;
- 2) CWA 17474-Part 2:2008 | Test and Evaluation | Metal Detectors - Soil Characterization for Metal Detector and Ground Penetrating Radar Performance;
- 3) CWA 15044:2004| Test and Evaluation | Demining Machines;
- 4) CWA 15464:2005| EOD Competency Standards;
- 5) CWA 15756:2007| Test and Evaluation | Personal Protective Equipment;
- 6) CWA 15832:2008| Follow-on Processes After the Use of Demining Machines; and
- 7) CWA 15833:2008| Quality Management (QA and QC) for Mechanical Demining

At the 11th meeting of BT/WG 126 held on 28 April 2009, it was decided that CEN BT/ 126 will be dissolved, and that CEN will officially transfer the ownership rights of CWA "Humanitarian Mine Action" to the GICHD/UNMAS on behalf of the mine action community by the end of 2009. At the same meeting, it was decided to withdraw CWA 15756:2007 T&E of PPE from the CWA collection, due to the amount of explosive in the test regime, until a revised version is available.

Normative references to the above documents have been updated in the relevant IMAS. The GICHD is currently awaiting a formal handover of CWA from the CEN Management, and once they are transferred, CWA will be reviewed and amended as part of the IMAS review process.

8. International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)

In October 2007, the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) members endorsed the goal of developing a set of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) along the lines of the standards already developed in the areas of mine action and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. The purpose of this initiative was to develop a set of internationally accepted and validated standards that will provide comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms control. CASA has established a Working Group on ISACS – co-chaired by UNODA and the UNDP to drive and oversee the development of the standards. The CASA Working Group has appointed a number

of consultants to produce first drafts of the modules. An Expert Reference Group was also established with members from the mix of stakeholders to review and provide feedback on draft ISACS; both the GICHD and UNMAS are members. This role has been maintained and where relevant to mine action, comments and feedback have been provided on draft ISACS to CASA in due time.

9. International Ammunition Technical Guidelines

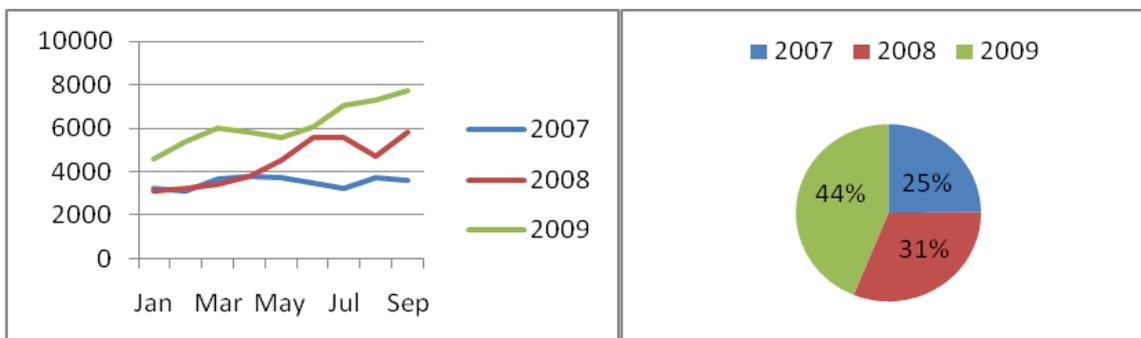
The UN General Assembly has mandated the production of International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). UNMAS has a seat on the Review Board for these guidelines. The IATG are being produced and will be completed within a year. These will cover, among other things, the issues related to the demilitarization/destruction of stockpiles of ammunition which will include cluster munitions and all other ammunitions types. These guidelines could be a substitute for the four IMAS related to stockpile destruction (07.42, 11.10, 11.20, and 11.30) and hence a review of the relevant IMAS will be required when the guidelines are available.

10. IMAS Website

The IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org) was continually updated during 2009. IMAS pages in Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian were made available with information translated into respective languages. New, amended and translated IMAS, as well as other relevant documents, were published on a regular basis as and when they were available. E-mail messages of “what’s new” were sent to all registered individuals on a regular basis. Revised national standards of Afghanistan, Jordan and Senegal, the first national standards in the French language, have been published. All IMAS related questions and queries were responded to within one business day. Information about the IMAS RB, such as the IMAS framework, minutes of the meeting, work plan and other relevant documents were made available for information.

The website statistics were reviewed on a quarterly basis to see the trends of visits and visitors to the website. As an example, a comparison of three quarters of 2007, 2008, and 2009 shows an increase in the number of visitors in 2009; 19% compared to 2007 and 13% compared to 2008 for the same period. See detail in the table below:

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2007	3203	3085	3656	3797	3748	3498	3207	3716	3630	31540
2008	3087	3226	3431	3803	4554	5579	5594	4709	5805	39788
2009	4592	5410	6017	5812	5598	6082	7075	7290	7759	55635
Total	10882	11721	13104	13412	13900	15159	15876	15715	17194	126963



11. Translation of IMAS

Effort continued to translate IMAS into other languages and make them available for the mine action community in 2009. The Military Humanitarian Demining school in Angers, France and CPADD in Benin, in conjunction with the GICHD, have translated a total of 35 IMAS while translation of the remaining IMAS is in progress. A mine action expert from Argentina kindly contributed up-to-date Spanish translation of three IMAS: IMAS 01.10, IMAS 04.10, and IMAS 09.50. The Organization of American States (OAS) has agreed to translate all IMAS into Spanish with the top 15 being translated and made available by September 2010. In addition, IMAS translation into Chinese, based on the recent feedback from the military school in Nanjing, China, has been completed but yet to be sent to the GICHD for publication.

Despite continued contacts with potential donors and translating bodies/authorities in Arabic, Farsi and Russian speaking countries, there has been no tangible progress to report, and the efforts will continue in 2010. There are only nine IMAS in Arabic (outdated), none in Farsi and a full set of IMAS in Russian (excluding those drafted since 2006) are currently available on the IMAS website.

12. IMAS Publications

The 2009 IMAS CD ROM was produced in March 2009 and distributed to all programmes. Another IMAS CD ROM (2010 edition) is planned to be issued in April 2010. An up-to-date "A Guide to IMAS 2010" was produced and published in Nov 2009, and parceled to all mine action programmes in Jan 2010. A guide to developing national standards is planned to be published in 2010. The following publications can be viewed and ordered through the GICHD or IMAS websites.

- a) A series of best practice guides to MRE IMAS;
- b) A guide to IMAS 2010 edition; and
- c) IMAS CD ROM issue No-5/ 2009, later in April 2010, IMAS CD ROM issue No 6/2010.

13. National Standards

With the amendment of the IMAS series, it is time for the national mine action authorities to review their national mine action standards (NMAS) to ensure their NMAS are in compliance with IMAS. IMAS RB members should also put the emphasis on the need for the review and revision of NMAS when they meet with the relevant national authorities. GICHD plans to support Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, DRC, Afghanistan, Poland, and Jordan in reviewing and/or developing their national standards in 2010. Other countries will be added as and when a request is made to the GICHD. GICHD support will include assistance in reviewing or drafting of national standards as well as training and capacity development of national staff.

National Standards of 11 countries including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, B&H, Croatia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Senegal are published on the IMAS Website as examples of NMAS for reference.

This is all for the 2010 edition of IMAS News. I look forward to meeting you in Geneva during the UNMAS meeting from 15 to 18 March, or at the IMAS RB Meeting on 19 March 2009.

Best regards,

Faiz Paktian
Secretary, IMAS Review Board

Attachment - IMAS RB members list as at March 2010