



21 March 2012

To: Members of the IMAS Review Board

## **IMAS NEWS 2012**

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

### **1. Next Review Board Meeting**

The next IMAS review board meeting is scheduled to be held at the GICHD in Geneva on Friday 30 March from 09.30 am to 3 pm, following the UNMAS National Directors meeting, which is taking place from 26 -29 March 2012.

### **2. IMAS Steering Group Meeting**

An IMAS steering group meeting will also take place ahead of the IMAS review board meeting at the GICHD on 29 March 2012 from 5 pm to 6 pm. The review board members will be briefed on decisions made at the steering group meeting.

### **3. UNMAS/GICHD independent evaluation of IMAS**

An independent evaluation of the IMAS was conducted by Southpac Consulting Limited, during the Intersessional meeting of the Standing Committees of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, from 20 to 23 June 2011. A final report was delivered in October, and members of the IMAS review board and steering group were briefed on findings and recommendations in a meeting convened in Copenhagen on 27 and 28 October 2012. Full report of the evaluation, minutes of the review board and steering group meetings are posted on the IMAS website.

### **4. IMAS stakeholders analysis**

In the aftermath of the evaluation of the IMAS, a joint meeting of the IMAS steering group and review board was held in Copenhagen in October 2011. During this meeting, participants expressed the fact that information was lacking in order to make informed policy decisions. One of the conclusions of the meeting was to conduct an IMAS stakeholder analysis, to help better understand and map IMAS stakeholders.

To this end, the term of references for an IMAS stakeholder analysis were developed and sent to members of the review board and steering group for comments. An independent consultant, Ms Tammy Hall, was contracted in March 2012 to conduct the analysis in close coordination with the IMAS review board. The consultant came up with a plan that was subsequently shared and accepted by members of the review board. As part of the methodology, she planned to interview approximately 50 stakeholders representing the broader mine action community, as well as seeking responses from members of the IMAS steering group and review board. She will provide an update on her findings during upcoming review board and steering group meetings in March 2012.

## 5. Overview of IMAS

Currently, 41 endorsed IMAS are published on the IMAS website. A new IMAS on information management is in its final stage of drafting, and will be submitted to the review board for approval in April 2012.

In 2011, there were no requests for a new IMAS. However, two requests were received for amendments of IMAS that are discussed in section 7 below. Plan for review/amendment of IMAS in 2012 is also discussed in section 7 below.

## 6. Overview of TNMA

Currently there are 15 TNMA in English published in the website. No request was made for a new TNMA in 2011. However, during first quarter of 2012, the following requests were made to the review board:

1. Proposal for a TNMA for Chinese type 84 Cluster Munition
2. Proposal for a TNMA for Responding to IED threat within demining operations
3. Proposal for a new IMAS/TNMA for EOD Level 4 competency

The review board supports 1 and 3 and they will be drafted in 2012.

## 7. IMAS review and amendments

As the entire IMAS series were reviewed and updated in late 2009 and 2010, a regular revision of the IMAS was not conducted in 2011. However, a number of IMAS were reviewed and validated. These included IMAS 07.30 accreditation, 07.40 monitoring and IMAS 09.20 post-clearance sampling. It is to be noted that the mentioned IMAS on quality management will be amended in 2012.

Additionally, based on a proposal for amendment, IMAS 09.50 – mechanical demining - was amended and approved by members of the review board in 2011. The review board also approved a request from a group of operators to amend the land release IMAS 08.20, 08.21 and 08.22. A meeting was convened on 24 Jan 2012 and following that meeting, the IMAS were amended and submitted, and are to be discussed by the review board in March. IMAS 04.10 was amended but could not get full support of the review board because of a few definitions. IMAS 04.10 will be updated and amended to incorporate recent changes to the land release IMAS in 2012.

Review and amendments of IMAS in 2012 include:

- Land release IMAS 08.20, 08.21, 08.22, 08.40, 09.10 and 09.11;
- 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; and
- If time allows; a review of the stockpile IMAS 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, and 08.41 in view of recently approved IATG will be conducted.

## 8. Review board membership

There are currently 30 seats on the IMAS review board - 27 full members and three observers.

In 2011, UNMAS Chairman of the board Mr. Chris Clark was replaced by Mr Paul Heslop. DDG's Mr Fredrik Pålsson was replaced by Mr Roger N. Fasth, and MAG's Mr. Jesse James was replaced by Mr Mark Thompson. UNDP's Ms Sara Sakkenes was replaced by Mr Tim Horner, UNOPS's Mr Paul

Heslop was replaced by Mr Lou Luff and UNICEF's Mr Sharif Baaser was replaced by Ms Judy Greyson.

Additionally, Mr Andy Smith, a non-affiliated member and Mr Erik Lauritzen, a Danish representative, have retired from the board. Mr Jean Francois Beriard, the CNDH demining school representative, has indicated that he will retire from the board in 2012. Attached is an up-to-date list of IMAS review board members as of March 2012.

As such, in accordance with IMAS 01.10 – Clause 12.2, we have currently two vacancies for donors, two for demining schools and one for a non-affiliated member that need to be filled in 2012.

## 9. CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA)

Currently, there are seven CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA) related to humanitarian mine action published on the IMAS website.

In Jan 2011, CEN formally transferred ownership rights for these CWA to GICHD/UNMAS, on behalf of the mine action community. It was planned to re-label CWA as *Test and Evaluation Protocols for Mine Action* in 2011. However, due to the long absence of the Chairman, the plan could not be implemented.

With the acceptance of the IMAS review board, it's planned that the following CWA will be re-labelled *Test and Evaluation Protocols for Mine Action* in 2012.

- 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 following CWA will be reviewed, amended and relabelled as TNMA:

- 15464:2005 EOD Competency Standards – will include EOD Level 4
- 15832:2008 Follow-on after Use of Demining Machines
- 15833:2008 Follow-on after Use of Demining Machines

They will be reviewed and amended, when needed, as part of the IMAS/TNMA through the IMAS review and amendments process in the future. The CWA page on the website will also be renamed *Test & Evaluation Protocols* in 2012.

## 10. International Ammunition Technical Guidelines

In 2008, a United Nations group of governmental experts reported to the general assembly on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus. A central recommendation made by the group was for technical guidelines for the stockpile management of ammunition to be developed within the United Nations. This provided the mandate to the United Nations for developing 'technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition', now commonly known as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising these guidelines was conducted under the United Nations Safer Guard Programme, by a technical review panel consisting of experts from member states, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Currently, there are 12 chapters of IATG published on the UNODA website. A link to these standards is also established on the IMAS website – references and publications page. The ITAG chapters include:

1. Introduction and Principles of Ammunition Management
2. Risk Management
3. Ammunition Accounting
4. Explosive Facilities (Storage - Field and Temporary Conditions)
5. Explosives 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

### 11. IMAS website

The IMAS website ([www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org)) was continually updated throughout 2011. Amended, and translated IMAS, TNMA and CWA 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 review board, such as the IMAS framework, the minutes from the meetings, work plans, evaluation reports and other relevant documents were made available for information.

To improve transparency measures, as suggested by members of the board, proposals and justifications for new IMAS and TNMA are now posted on the review board page. Links to other standards and publications have also been established on the website. Additionally, a new page known as RAPID was established. See more details below.

The table below provides a brief overview of the [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org) statistics:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2011
# Visits to Site	1,931	1,919	1,948	1,694	1,804	1,753	1,537	1,591	1,881	1,935	1,938	1,428	21,359
# Unique visitors	1,108	1,177	1,200	1,113	1,190	1,133	992	1,090	1,203	1,347	1,298	960	12,107
Pages Viewed	8,758	9,429	9,772	7,420	8,612	7,091	7,125	7,027	8,658	8,777	7,261	5,202	95,132
Pages per Visit	4.54	4.91	5.02	4.38	4.77	4.05	4.64	4.42	4.60	4.54	3.75	3.64	4.45
Average time on site (mins)	04:29	05:13	04:39	04:06	04:21	03:34	04:38	04:16	04:51	04:47	04:00	03:46	04:25
Bounce rate	45.21%	35.96%	36.50%	41.56%	39.97%	46.15%	41.77%	44.88%	42.05%	38.14%	42.47%	45.59%	41.51%
New visits	50.34%	52.48%	52.93%	56.67%	56.10%	56.47%	55.37%	56.57%	55.56%	59.64%	56.30%	57.21%	55.38%

More details on statistics are available and can be provided on request.

### 12. 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.

RAPID 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.

Currently, information regarding accidents is being collected from all programmes, and plans are underway to present quarterly reports on the website by end of June 2012. A page has been established with all relevant information, and reports will be published on the the IMAS website.

### 13. 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, 41 endorsed IMAS are published in English. There are two Arabic, 35 Armenian, two Chinese, 41 French, 28 Russian and nine Spanish translations.

In 2011, a number of TNMA was translated into French. These included; *NT 01.10.01, TN 07.30.01, TN 09.30.01 and TN 10.20.02*. Additionally, six CWA were translated and published. These include:

- *15044:2009 Test et évaluations des engins de déminage;*
- *15044:2009 Complément 3 Retour Expérience;*
- *15044:2009 Complément 3 RETEX;*
- *15832 :2008 Mesures de suivi après utilisation d'un engin de déminage mécanique;*
- *14747:2003 Détecteurs de métal and*
- *15833:2008 Gestion de la Qualité équipe mécanique).*

### 14. IMAS publications

In March 2011, 1,000 IMAS CD ROMs were produced and distributed to mine action programmes and mine action organisations. The IMAS CD ROM 2012 edition was issued in March 2012. 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 (book)
- IMAS CD edition No-8/2012

### 15. National Standards

In 2011, the GICHD supported a number of mine action programmes, either in the development and/or revision of their national mine action standards in 2011. These countries included Tajikistan, Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Jordan. The national standards of 11 countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Sir Lanka, Sudan, and Senegal are published on the IMAS website, as examples of NMAS.

That's all for the 2012 edition of IMAS News. I look forward to meeting you in Geneva during the UNMAS meeting from 26 to 29 March, or at the IMAS review board meeting on Friday 30 March 2012.

Best regards,

Faiz Paktian  
Secretary, IMAS Review Board

Attachment - IMAS review board members list as of March 2012.