

MINUTES

IMAS REVIEW BOARD MEETING

MARCH 2022

Date of meeting:	22 March 2022
Start time (duration):	14:00 Central European Summer Time (3 hours)
Location:	Held remotely on Microsoft Teams
Meeting Chair:	Ms. Abigail Hartley, UNMAS
Meeting Secretary:	Mr. Sasha Logie, GICHD

1. Call to order and housekeeping

The Chair of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board (RB), Ms. Abigail Hartley, called the meeting to order and the Secretary, Mr. Sasha Logie, provided meeting housekeeping procedures.

2. Introduction, welcoming new members and adoption of Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all members, observers and guests. New member organizations and new member representatives were also welcomed:

New member organizations:

- FSD, which will be represented by Mr. Alex Van Roy
- DanChurchAid, which will be represented by Ms. Lene Rasmussen

New member representatives:

- Ms. Katherine Baker (PMWRA)
- Mr. Dejan Rendulić (Croatia)
- Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuy (Vietnam)
- Ms. Elke Hottentot (Humanity and Inclusion)
- Mr. Mark Connelly (UNMAS)
- Mr. Maarten Verburg (Belgian Military)

The Chair adopted the Minutes from the RB meeting on 24 May 2021 and confirmed that there are no outstanding action points.

3. T&EP 07.31/01/2022: Setting of Animal Detection Systems (ADS) Testing Sites, Ed.1

Prior to the meeting, on 2 March RB members received the T&EP document and a report from the Technical Working Group (TWG). The focal point of the TWG, Mr. Stanislav Damjanovic (GICHD), provided an overview of the TWG's work in finalising the T&EP. The T&EP was developed to supplement IMAS 07.31 *Accreditation and operational testing of animal detection systems and handlers*, which was written by the same TWG and approved by the RB in 2020.

Comments from the Board and agreed text changes:

- Clarification was sought as to whether the terms “blind test” and “double blind test” would be added to IMAS 04.10 *Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations*. **Action Point: TWG working on IMAS 04.10 to add the new terms to the glossary.**
- Section 4, paragraph 3, **Action Point: change the words “this term” to the word “shall”.**

Following the Board discussion, and subject to the change listed above, the revised T&EP 07.31/01/2022 was approved by consensus by the IMAS Review Board.

4. T&EP: Competencies for ADS Trainers and Handlers

Mr. Stanislav Damjanovic provided an update on the ongoing work of the TWG developing a new T&EP on ADS Trainers and Handlers Competences. The development of the T&EP derives from the RB decision in 2018 for a review of ADS in IMAS. This first led to a revision of IMAS 09.41 *Operational procedures for ADS*, and a new IMAS 07.31. Once these IMAS were completed in 2020, the RB extended the mandate of the TWG to develop two T&EPs, T&EP 07.31/01/2022 that was approved in agenda item 3, and a new T&EP on competencies required for ADS handlers, team leaders and instructors. The TWG expects to complete the document by the end of September 2022, for approval by the RB in Q4 2022.

5. IMAS 04.10: Glossary of Mine Action Terms, Definitions and Abbreviations

Mr. Lionel Pechera (GICHD) updated the RB on the work of the TWG that was tasked by the RB in May 2021 to review terms and definitions across the IMAS framework. The TWG is reviewing issues such as, but not limited to, terms in 04.10 not used in any other IMAS; new or updated definitions in other IMAS not included or updated in IMAS 04.10; occurrences of the same term defined differently. While TWG progress is delayed as it waits for other TWGs to address terminology issues in the IMAS that they are reviewing, it expects to submit for approval the IMAS to the RB in Q3 2022. To avoid delays, it will likely stagger and submit batches of terms for RB consideration.

Mr. Pechera highlighted the need for guidance for the development, use and maintenance of terms and definitions in IMAS. The RB supported the proposal for the TWG/Secretary to develop guidance on how terms, definitions and abbreviations in IMAS are managed within IMAS. **Action point: TWG/Secretary to develop guidance on the management of terms, definitions and abbreviations within the IMAS framework.**

Mr. Yang Li advised that China is translating IMAS into Chinese, which would be made available for publication on the mineactionstandards.org website.

6. IMAS 06.10: Management of Training

Mr. Lionel Pechera updated the RB on the revision of IMAS 06.10, which was approved by the RB in May 2021. Key issues that are being addressed by the TWG include: the relationship of IMAS 06.10 and the T&EPs on competency standards; the distinction between formal and informal training; competence of trainers. The TWG expects to present a revised IMAS to the RB in late Q3 2022.

7. IMAS 08.40: Marking Mine and ERW Hazards

Mr. Lionel Pechera presented the work of the TWG revising IMAS 08.40. Issues being discussed by the TWG include identification of contextual challenges such as marking in urban environments; marking in areas with lesser degree of permissiveness, i.e., where a party to ongoing conflict may not accept markings; temporary markings which can remain for a long time; the need to reinforce the linkages between marking, community liaison and EORE; and the need for monitoring and checking marking. It was suggested that the TWG also consider language on the use of hazard signs or markings as part of a ceasefire agreement or peace agreement and parties to conflict marking their respective contaminated areas. The TWG expect to submit the amended IMAS to the RB for consideration by late Q2 or early Q3.

8. IMAS 09.50: Mechanical Demining & TNMA 09.50/01

Mr. Adam Blaney (HALO), who co-coordinates the TWG with Mr. Jonathan Guthrie (NPA), provided an update on the revision and review of IMAS 09.50. The focus is on strengthening guidance to NMAAs and operators on how to apply mechanical demining solutions safely and efficiently. The TWG is also seeking to expand the scope beyond the current narrow focus of the existing IMAS to include non-mine action specific equipment which is currently used widely in mine action operations, including better test and evaluation methods for non-demining machinery. The TWG is also reviewing TNMA 09.50/01 to better reflect current practices. Completion of both the IMAS and TNMA is expected in Q4 2022.

9. IMAS 13.10: Victim Assistance in Mine Action

The IMAS Steering Group (SG) adopted IMAS 13.10 (edition.1) on the condition that the RB review clarify terminology in the IMAS. The SG requested that appropriate expertise be included in the TWG, to this end, TWG membership includes HI, ICRC, APMBC ISU, NPA, PMWRA, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNDP, LMAC, ICBL-CMC and GICHD. Ms. Tammy Hall (GICHD), who coordinates the TWG formed to address the SG's comments, updated the RB on its progress to date.

The TWG has focussed on reviewing the terms, definitions and abbreviations section, and considered other minor text changes throughout the document, including gender and diversity considerations. Some issues addressed include clarifying the relationship between the terms 'survivor', 'victim' and 'direct victim', which are complex to define in part due to how different persons choose to self-identify. Another issue relates to legacy treaty language and national frameworks which use terms such as 'victim', which is considered by some no longer the best term. The ICRC provided inputs on human rights law implications. The TWG anticipate completing its work by the end of April 2022 for review by the RB. **Action Point: RB chair suggested reviewing the option of consulting the Harvard Law School – Project on Disability, which was involved in reviewing the first edition of the IMAS.**

10. IMAS 10.10: Safety and Occupational Health - General Requirements

Mr. Andy Duncan (HALO) provided an update on the work of the TWG following the RB decision in May 2021 to review four occupational health and safety IMAS: 10.10, 10.20, 10.30 and 10.50. As IMAS 10.10 is the overarching IMAS for the 10 series, conclusion of the revision will follow any updates to the other 10 series IMAS. The main backbone of the IMAS is the references, and as such the TWG is working to ensure that they are relevant and that any changes to the reference documents are reflected in the IMAS.

The RB was asked to consider amending the title of the IMAS from 'Safety and Occupational Health - General Requirements' to either 'Safety and Occupational Health - General requirements for explosive safety', or 'Safety and Occupational Health - General requirements for working with explosives'. No objections were raised and a couple members supported the suggestion to update the title of the IMAS to use more precise language. The TWG will consider this matter further.

11. IMAS 10.20: Demining Worksite Safety

Mr. Andy Duncan advised that the main focus of the current IMAS is the references and Annex B, which provides the detailed guidance. The revision of the text will focus in particular on risk and risk assessment and on aligning the text with other relevant IMAS chapters to ensure that there is no conflict on differing advice. The amendment will also include changes to provide guidance specific to IEDs, a mapping of changes in IMAS 10.50, and aligning to IMAS 07.14 on risk management.

Two issues were raised to the RB for its consideration: 1) amending the title of the IMAS to ‘Safety and occupational health – demining worksite safety for explosive hazards’; and 2) de-linking IATG references. The first issue received support and for more precise language to be used, but no decision was made on the exact wording, which requires further discussion by the TWG. The second issue was not discussed in the meeting, and will require further follow up, for example by email with RB members.

There was a discussion about whether other types of accidents, e.g., road traffic accidents, trips and falls, should be considered within IMAS. It was noted that such issues are included in other national regulatory frameworks and there is a risk of duplication and replication if also included in IMAS. It was suggested to include a paragraph that refers to other health and safety issues.

It was also noted that there is separate inter-organisational mine action TWG (outside of IMAS) chaired by GICHD (focal point: Stanislav Damjanovic) working on establishing a central repository for accidents, which would assist in analysing accidents within the industry. MACRA is a database that is developed by the GICHD and partners, for collecting and storing all available information on demining accidents worldwide. Its purpose is to ensure demining accident data is collected from all programmes in a timely fashion, with the view to conduct annual and on-request analysis of the demining accidents and disseminate information on trends to the broader mine action community. With this data, it will be easier to follow up global trends and put appropriate responses in place. The concept was presented at the NDM-UN side event in Geneva in 2020, and the database is now ready for use. Most of the operators have already contributed to the development of this database, and the next step is to present the database to donors, national mine action authorities and other interested parties, to promote this tool further and make it a reference point for analysing accidents in the sector.

12. IMAS 10.30: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Mr. Andy Duncan advised that the majority of the review by the TWG is completed. Currently the IMAS includes as a normative reference the NATO STANAG 2920 as the technical benchmark by which PPE is assessed. In its deliberations, the TWG is divided on which benchmark to use in the IMAS for PPE. It was proposed to complete the review of the IMAS maintaining the current benchmark, and that any change to the benchmark would require a full review of current PPE used within the sector, including a review of accidents and the effectiveness of PPE. The Chair proposed the possibility of a separate meeting of interested RB members if required.

The TWG also recommend removing the section on blast resistant footwear, which is included in the current IMAS. The TWG is unaware of any mine action organisations using blast footwear and advised that in many instances the wearing of blast boots can increase the risk of an accident occurring. The TWG also recommend amending the title of the IMAS to “Safety and Occupational Health – Personal Protective Equipment for explosive hazards”.

13. IMAS 10.50: Storage, Transportation and Handling of Explosives

Mr. Andy Duncan advised the current version of the IMAS refers to IATGs and recommends that the revised IMAS be made more specific to mine action. The TWG recommend reducing the reliance on IATGs which are not appropriate referring to munitions as opposed to bulk explosives, which require different storage requirements. This recommendation received support from the RB. The IMAS requires the development of guidance for items recovered as UXO or AXO, and guidance for the understanding, mitigation and acceptance of explosive risk.

14. Management of Human Remains

A draft IMAS on the Management on Human Remains was reviewed by the IMAS RB at its meeting in May 2021 it was decided that further discussion and revision were needed. A TWG was formed for this work. Mr. Lionel Pechera updated the RB on the first output of the TWG, which was to review and make a recommendation to the RB about what type of IMAS document was required, i.e., a TNMA or an IMAS. The TWG has concluded this process and will submit its recommendation report by mid-April for the development of an IMAS on the management of human remains to the RB.

The TWG considered the two most common scenarios in which mine action encounters human remains, firstly when mine action operations incidentally discover human remains, and secondly, when a mine action operator is required to support operations to recover human remains. The TWG identified possible prescriptive requirements for an IMAS, as well as roles and responsibilities for NMAAs, which would be developed further during the IMAS drafting process. It was noted that this issue involves many actors beyond mine action, and that the IMAS should include guidance within the two scenarios identified above only, and limited to mine action activities, e.g., when a mine action organisation is requested to provide support to access human remains, the organisation is limited to EO support activities only and is not involved in the recovery of human remains. It was further emphasised that the proposal to develop an IMAS is not intended to require mine action stakeholders to engage in the management of human remains.

15. IMAS 05.10: Information Management for Mine Action, (Annex B-Minimum Data Requirements)

Mr. Lionel Pechera presented the progress of the TWG which is working on including beneficiaries (e.g., beneficiaries of land release, EORE and EOD) as minimum data requirements for information management. The TWG is also reviewing the inclusion of victim assistance beneficiaries which is linked to the work being undertaken on IMAS 13.10 and VA related definitions. No objection from RB members was raised to this additional area of work being added to the TWG mandate, which was not included within the TWG's original TORs.

Other issues being addressed include definitions of land use, and disaggregation of victim data by sex, age and disability. In addition to revising the IMAS, the TWG will draft a TNMA providing guidance on good practice for the measurement and reporting of beneficiaries. The TWG expects to be able to submit the revised IMAS within Q2 2022, and the TNMA in Q3 2022.

16. TNMA 12.10/01: Risk Education for IEDs

The TWG is co-led by Mr. Hugues Laurence (UNICEF) and Mr. Lionel Pechera (GICHD). The focus of the TWG is to ensure that the TNMA is accessible, understandable and applicable to EORE practitioners. Revisions have focused on amending the text to use existing and approved terminology, and to align with existing standards such as IMAS 12.10 and IMAS 07.14. The TWG expects to conclude its revision of the TNMA by late Q2, early Q3 2022.

17. T&EP Additional Operational Competencies

Mr. Jonathan 'Gus' Guthrie updated the RB on the work of the TWG reviewing new competencies to the IMAS framework. The group identified the need to develop competencies for additional operational roles within mine action, including:

- Manual (deminer, team leader and site supervisor). Expected to be completed by June 2022.
- Non-technical survey (officer and team leader). Expected to be completed by September 2022.

- Mechanical (operator and supervisor). Expected to be completed by December 2022 or early 2023.

18. Any Other Business

Mr. Charles Frisby (NPA) informed the RB that NPA plans to submit two proposals for new items to the RB workplan. 1) an amendment to IMAS 07.13 Environmental management in mine action, and a new TNMA. 2) a new TNMA on cluster munition remnants survey. Both proposals will be submitted to the RB for review and approval through the Secretary.

Mr. Sasha Logie informed the RB of a digital campaign coordinated by GICHD promoting IMAS on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of IMAS and invited RB member organisations to participate. The campaign will run from 4 April 2022 until 24 June and a campaign pack is available to RB members through GICHD Communications.

Ms. Abigail Hartley acknowledged Ms. Tammy Hall, who is leaving the RB, for her contribution to the IMAS Review Board.

- End -

Annex A - Record of attendance.

Category	#	Name	Country / Org	Present
Chair	1	Abigail Hartley	UNMAS	Yes
Secretary	2	Sasha Logie	GICHD	Yes
Donor	3	Katherine Baker	USA	Yes
Donor	4	Ian Mansfield	MASG	Yes
Commercial	5	Todd Biggs	Tetra Tech, Inc.	Yes
National	6	Chea Sarim*	Cambodia	Yes
National	7	Dejan Rendulić	Croatia	Yes
National	8	Shafiullah Ahmadzai	Afghanistan	No
National	9	Nguyen Ngoc Thuy	Vietnam	No
National	10	Yang Li	China	Yes
Nat./NGO/Operator	11	Betsy Janneth Castro Gómez	Colombia	Yes
INGO	12	Richard MacCormac*	DRC	No
INGO	13	Mikael Bold*	MAG	Yes
INGO	14	Charles Frisby	NPA	Yes
INGO	15	Elke Hottentot	HI Federation	Yes
INGO	16	Adam Jasinski	HALO	Yes
INGO	17	Roger Fasth*	DanChurchAid	Yes
INGO	18	Matt Wilson*	FSD	Yes
UN	19	Stephen Bryant	UNDP	No
UN	20	Hugues Laurence	UNICEF	Yes
UN	21	Joseph Huber	UNOPS	Yes
UN	22	Mark Connelly	UNMAS	Yes
Military	23	Maarten Verburg	Military- Belgium	Yes
GICHD	24	Tammy Hall	GICHD	Yes
Convention ISU	25	Juan Carlos Ruan	ISU APMBC	Yes
Demining School	26	Frédéric Mercury	CREG	No
Demining School	27	Angel Belen	HDTC	No
Non-Affiliated	28	Suzanne Fiederlein	Independent	Yes
Observer	29	Louis Maresca*	ICRC	Yes
Observer	30	Magnus Bengtsson	MSB	Yes
Observer	31	Michael Heiman	APOPO	Yes
Guest	32	Alain Nellen	GICHD	Yes
Guest	33	Harry McCloy	USA	Yes
Guest	34	Stephen Robinson	GICHD	Yes
Guest	35	Lionel Pechera	GICHD	Yes
Guest	36	Stanislav Damjanovic	GICHD	Yes
Guest	37	Andy Duncan	HALO	Yes
Guest	38	Jonathan Guthrie	NPA	Yes
Guest	39	Adam Blaney	HALO	Yes

*Proxy participants replacing fulltime member representatives