

## **MINUTES**

### **IMAS REVIEW BOARD MEETING**

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Date of meeting:	21 June 2023
Start time (duration):	11:00 Central European Time (3 hours)
Location:	GICHD, Geneva
Meeting Chair:	Ms. Abigail Hartley, UNMAS
Meeting Secretary:	Mr. Sasha Logie, GICHD

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#### **1. Call to order**

The Chair, Ms. Abigail Hartley, called the meeting to order.

#### **2. Open and welcome**

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

- Mr. Ly Panharith for Cambodia. Represented by Mr. Chim Chansideth
- Mr. Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi representing the UN MAPA Liaison Office
- Mr. Manuel Alejandro Cardona López representing Colombia
- Mr. Bruno Espere representing the French Engineer School
- Mr. Valon Kumnova (first meeting) representing GICHD
- Ms. Erin Atkinson representing Tetra. Tech.

#### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

#### **4. IMAS documents to be reviewed / approved**

During agenda item 4, four IMAS documents were reviewed and considered for approval.

##### **4.1. TNMA 07.50/01 Practical guidelines on the management of human remains in mine action**

Following the publication in January 2023 of the new IMAS 07.50 on management of human remains in mine action, a new TNMA was developed providing recommendations and best practices on the management of human remains located during mine action operations. The technical working group (TWG) was coordinated by Mr. Lionel Pechera (GICHD).

**TNMA 07.50/01 Practical guidelines on the management of human remains in mine action (first edition) was approved by consensus** by the IMAS Review Board.

##### **4.2. IMAS 09.50 Mechanical land release**

At its meeting in May 2021, the RB decided to establish a TWG to review and update IMAS 09.50 (first edition/amendment 4), which had not been revised since 2013. Subsequently, a TWG was formed coordinated by Mr. Adam Blaney (HALO) and Mr. Gus Guthrie (NPA).

With reference to paragraph 9.3, “Management of mechanical land release operations” it was agreed that the text related to mechanical land release operations being managed by “suitably trained personnel”, was too vague. It was noted that competency standards will be developed as

part of a new Test & Evaluation Protocol (T&EP) later in the year and that this should be added as a normative reference to IMAS 09.50.

- **Action Point: Add T&EP on competency standards for mechanical functions to section 9.3 and Annex A, once published.**

It was also suggested that management of human remains is highly relevant to mechanical operations in many contexts and should be noted within the standard.

- **Action Point: Add in text of section 4.1 that management of human remains in line with IMAS 07.50, shall be considered. Add IMAS 07.50 as a normative reference to Annex A.**

Subject to the action points above, **IMAS 09.50 Mechanical land release (second edition) was approved by consensus** by the IMAS Review Board.

In its report to the RB, the TWG noted that it was reviewing the supporting TNMA 09.50/01 and recommended that T&EP 09.50/2009 also be reviewed.

#### 4.3. IMAS 10.50 Storage, transportation and handling of explosives in mine action

At its meeting in May 2021, the RB decided to update IMAS 10.50 (third edition), which had not been looked at since 2013. Subsequently, a TWG was formed coordinated by Mr. Mark Davis (HALO).

Prior to the meeting, PM/WRA submitted to the RB Secretary written inputs suggesting amendments to terminology.

The issue of addressing explosive ordnance (EO) accidents and incidents in the context of scrap metal processing in Afghanistan was raised. While it was acknowledged that this is an important topic, it was concluded that this issue does not fall within the scope of IMAS 10.50.

With reference to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) noted in section 4.3 of the IMAS, it was agreed that language explaining that this document provides additional guidance only should be added and that the reader should be directed to section 6 which covers transportation.

- **Action point: Add explanatory language in section 4.3 and refer to section 6.**

It was noted that there are a high number of terms in section 3 of the IMAS, some of which could be removed. For example, terminology that is only used in the annexes and not used within the main body of the standard, could be removed from section 3.

It was also noted that there should be a clearer distinction between when text applies to EO and when it applies to demolition explosives.

The standard should be cross-referenced with T&EP 09.30.01.2022 to ensure that the EOD levels mentioned in the standard are aligned to the T&EP.

After the discussion, it was concluded that the IMAS was not ready to be approved. The RB requested the TWG reconvene to address comments of RB members. Further, RB members with notable feedback were encouraged to attend TWG meetings to share their comments directly.

- **Action point: TWG, including interested RB members, to meet to address RB comments. Once completed, IMAS 10.50 to be circulated to RB members for review and approval by email.**

#### 4.4. T&EP 09.10/01/2023 Competency standards for deminer, battle area clearance operator, team leader and supervisor

At its meeting in May 2021, the RB decided to develop new T&EPs for operational mine action competencies not already covered by IMAS. A TWG was formed to determine which thematic areas

should be considered by the RB for developing new T&EPs, and recommended competencies for deminer functions, including deminer, team leader and supervisor. During the development of the T&EP, battle area clearance (BAC) operator was added.

**T&EP 09.10/01/2023 Competency standards for deminer, BAC operator, team leader and supervisor (first edition) was approved by consensus** by the IMAS Review Board.

Mr. Gus Guthrie (NPA), coordinator of the TWG advised the RB that the work to develop the next T&EP on mechanical competencies and T&EP on non-technical survey (NTS) would begin later in the summer.

- **Action Point: RB Secretary to send an email to RB members requesting nominations for TWGs for the two new T&EPs.**

The explosive ordnance risk education advisory group (EORE AG) is considering making a proposal in 2024 to the RB for a new T&EP on competency standards for EORE personnel.

## 5. TWG updates

Duration agenda item 5, the RB received progress updates from the coordinators of 5 TWGs.

### 5.1. IMAS 07.13 Environmental management and climate change in mine action

Mr. Rob White (NPA), who coordinates the TWG for the revision to IMAS 07.13 gave a progress update to the RB.

Mr. White advised that the TWG had recommended amending the title of the IMAS to include “climate change” to more accurately reflect the IMAS content.

A number of national authorities had been consulted and provided inputs to the draft standard.

The TWG had identified the requirement for an accompanying TNMA to provide practical guidance to mine action practitioners to implement this IMAS. The need for a TNMA was also supported during NMAA consultations.

The TWG decided that most of the annexes in the current IMAS would be moved to the TNMA.

The revision to the IMAS was welcomed by Vietnam, who shared some of the environmental protection challenges faced during EOD, and the requirements to comply with national environmental protection legislation.

Mr. White advised that the TWG plans to finalize the document for RB review by the autumn, and that it would soon begin working on the accompanying TNMA.

### 5.2. IMAS 10.10 Safety and occupational health - general requirements

Mr. Adam Jasinski (HALO) gave an update on the TWG working on IMAS 10.10. Mr. Jasinski advised that the TWG would aim to ensure that the standard sets the requirements for mine action practitioners while not duplicating or contradicting safety and occupational health standards and legislation which already exists in most countries and within international standards including other IMAS.

### 5.3. IMAS 10.20 Demining worksite safety

Mr. Adam Jasinski (HALO) also gave an update on the TWG working on IMAS 10.20. He noted that the key area for development was within Annex B, which, while it covers safety distances in demining operations, lacks guidance on safety distances for IED and mechanical land release operations.

#### 5.4. TNMA 05.10/01 Measurement and reporting of beneficiaries

Mr. Lionel Pechera (GICHD) provided an update on TNMA 05.10/01, which is being developed to support the amendment to IMAS 05.10 and the addition of minimum data requirements and standardisation of monitoring beneficiaries.

The TNMA was almost complete and would be ready for IMAS RB review and approval in the coming weeks. The TNMA will include four annexes, with detailed guidance on measuring beneficiaries of risk education, land release, victim assistance, and EOD spot tasks. It was highlighted that the TNMA aims to go beyond activity reporting to results-based reporting.

It was suggested that the TWG consider adding suggestions on how to avoid double counting of EORE beneficiaries in the EORE annex.

#### 5.5. TNMA Cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS)

Mr. Sasha Logie (RB Secretary) gave an update on behalf of Mr. Tim Horner (NPA), who was unable to attend the meeting, on the progress of TNMA on CMRS, advising that the TNMA is almost ready for review by the RB.

### 6. Secretariat update

#### 6.1. Update on formation of new TWGs (IMAS 01.10, 09.44 and 14.10)

Mr. Sasha Logie updated the RB on the establishment of the three TWGs working on IMAS 01.10, IMAS 09.44 and IMAS 14.10. Mr. Logie invited RB members who had not yet nominated a TWG member to do so.

- **Action point: RB members to nominate members to the TWGs working on IMAS 01.10, 09.44 and 14.10**

#### 6.2. Introduction of new look website

Mr. Sasha Logie introduced the revamped [IMAS website](#), which includes online IMAS, making them easier to navigate.

### 7. Any other business

Mr. Mark Buswell (UNDP) proposed that Ukraine join the IMAS RB. Mr. Logie clarified that a change to the number of NMAA memberships slots would require approval by the IMAS Steering Group (SG). Currently there are five NMAA membership places all of which are taken.

- **Action point: IMAS Chair and Secretary to raise the matter to the IMAS SG.**

Mr. Mark Thompson (MAG) noted that the standardized copyright notice on IMAS documents restricts the use of the standards.

- **Action point. IMAS Chair and Secretary to review the copyright notice.**

Mr. Adam Jasinski (HALO) raised concerns about the absorptive capacity of national authorities in adopting IMAS amendments into NMAA and highlighted the usefulness of standardizing translation of terminology into key languages. It was clarified that IMAS 04.10 is translated into various languages and published on the IMAS website. Mr. Chim Chansideth emphasized the importance of translating IMAS into Khmer which is carried out in consultation with mine action experts.

- **Action point: IMAS Secretary to review options of standardizing terminology translations.**

Mr. Sasha Logie (RB Secretary) raised the issue of how new and revised terms in an IMAS should be entered into IMAS 04.10 and proposed that he should consult the IMAS RB before entering terminology into IMAS 04.10. It was suggested that criteria be developed to determine terms to be added to IMAS 04.10.

- **Action point: IMAS Secretary to write to RB members when new or revised terms are introduced into an IMAS to recommend whether a term should be entered into 04.10.**
- **Action point: Develop criteria to guide this process.**

Ms. Abigail Hartley (Chair) informed the RB that she would be leaving UNMAS and the IMAS RB at the end of September.

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