



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Meeting of the Standing Committees 27-30 May 2013

Geneva, 29 May 2013

Update on Developments of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)
Notes to accompany slides

Statement delivered by Guy Rhodes, Head, Operations Consulting,
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Thank you Co Chairs

I do apologise, in advance, for those that were present at the National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisors Meeting, held here last month - as much of this presentation I am to deliver is a repeat performance.

Slide 1 – Title Slide

The Land Release Standard, introduced in 2009 came up for review in 2012 in accordance with IMAS policy. Following this review, the Standards have been updated and endorsed by the IMAS Review Board in April this year.

The Land Release Standards are arguably the most important IMAS series; and changes within them prompt further changes across the rest of the IMAS series as well as changes to National Mine Action Standards and to Standard Operating Procedures.

A considerable amount of time and effort has been invested in the review process. This has involved over 100 people from 25 organizations and taken some 18 months of deliberation.

Slide 2 – Land Release Pyramid

The Land Release process by definition involves Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and Clearance activities. This can be illustrated by a 'land release pyramid' – which emphasizes the value of survey activities.

Too much land remains subject to full clearance in many programmes – when significant areas can often be cancelled or reduced through less expensive and more rapid non-technical or technical survey approaches.

Reflecting this general theme, the amended Land Release IMAS places greater emphasis on evidence based approaches to increase operational efficiency - particularly the importance of high quality and continuous NTS activities to better define starting points for operations and to support decision-making when operations are underway.

The IMAS also promotes Technical Survey approaches to limit instances where Suspect Hazardous Areas are exposed to full clearance.

Slide 3 - IMAS framework

Looking at the IMAS – this slide illustrates to top half of the IMAS framework:

- Series 1-6 Contains general standards and guidelines: glossary of terminology, how to use IMAS etc.
- Series 7 Management series for demining
- Series 8 Old Land Release Series which essentially contains Survey activities
- Series 9 Clearance Series

The recent review of the Land Release IMAS has elevated an amended form of the previous Land Release IMAS 08.20 to an operational management level in Series 7 – now providing a more consistent approach to distinguishing between standards relating to the broader management of activity and those addressing the requirements of specific activities.

The standards in Series 8 - are all survey and survey-related activities - thus Series 8 has been relabeled – ‘Survey Series’ with Series 9 remaining a ‘Clearance Series’.

The new Land Release IMAS (07.11) elevated as an Operational Management Standard is now well positioned to discuss the interrelationship between Survey and Clearance much more clearly. This will help address some of the confusion that exists in the sector regarding the use of the Land Release term.

Based on these changes there is a process underway of editing the full set of IMAS standards to align them with the terminology and amendments endorsed by the Review Board and to adjust references to Land Release and Survey IMAS throughout.

Slide 4 - Principle Changes

- The amended standards enhance the previous standards. There has not been a total rewrite of the IMAS – there has been an attempt to provide greater clarity and consistency in the documents - describing minimum global requirements.
- The standards now adopt more ‘ISO’ compatible language - setting out principles that are applicable to global mine/ERW settings but allowing for further expansion in National Mine Action Standards, Technical Notes and Standard Operating Procedures.

- Terminology has been largely maintained, but definitions have been tightened.
- The standards promote a two tier system of land classification - SHA/CHA - where SHA are based on indirect evidence of contamination and CHA are based on direct evidence. Furthermore this evidence-based approach discourages the creation of SHAs unless there is credible information to justify such a decision. This does not exclude countries or organisations using more complex land classification schemes – as long as they are reduceable to the industry standard.
- The amended Standards promote operational efficiency by targeting expensive resources at actual areas of contamination. There is also a requirement to report with greater standardisation according to products of NTS, TS and clearance

Slide 5 - Land Release Process

To summarize on the land release process

Hazardous areas should be classified as either Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) or Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) according to the availability and quality of evidence.

Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and Clearance are the 'Activities' used to identify Mine/ERW contamination and return safe land to productive use.

The products of these activities are Cancelled, Reduced and Cleared land – all measured in metres squared.

Slide 6 - Reporting

The components of survey and clearance should be disaggregated in databases and for reporting purposes to Conventions as well as for donors and others. This will allow statistics to better reflect the effort that has been required to undertake survey and clearance and allow greater clarity when comparing work undertaken. This is valuable for donors as well as for the monitoring progress of operations for Conventions.

Slide 7 - GICHD Activities - Jordan

In the wake of the approval of the amendment to the Land Release IMAS series, the GICHD has held a Land Release and Operational Efficiency Workshop in Jordan this month - as part of the Arabic Language Outreach Programme, with Operations Officers and operations staff from 13 countries.

Slide 8 - GICHD Activities - Jordan

This work focused on practical exercises in NTS and TS survey and the standardisation of reporting.

Slide 9 - Side Event

Tomorrow the GICHD and ISU will host a side event to

- Provide further information on the principal changes to the IMAS;
- Inform States Parties of how these changes can support implementation and reporting, and

- Discuss potential plans for training and assistance in countries to implement the amendments to the LR IMAS and to promote accelerated operations.

Thank you

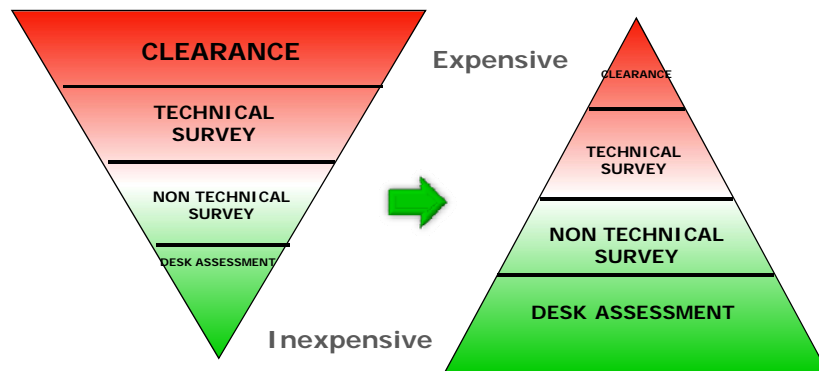



Update on the Amended Land Release International Mine Action Standards 2013



Operational Efficiency

LAND RELEASE PYRAMID



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Series 01- 06: General mine action standards and guidelines

IMAS 01.10 Guide for the Application of IMAS
 IMAS 02.10 Establishment of a Mine Action Programme
 IMAS 03.10 Equipment Procurement, T&E
 IMAS 03.20 Procedure
 IMAS 03.30 Research
 IMAS 03.40 T&E
 IMAS 04.10 Glossary of Terms and Definitions
 IMAS 05.10 Management of Information
 IMAS 06.10 Management of Training

Series 07: Management, accreditation and monitoring

IMAS 07.10 Management of Demining
 IMAS 07.20 Guide to Mine Action Release Contracts
 IMAS 07.20 Mine Action Organizations
 IMAS 07.40 Monitoring of Mine Action Organizations
 IMAS 07.42 Monitoring of Stockpile Destruction

Endorsed First Edition
Draft First Edition


Series 08: Mine/ERW Survey

IMAS 08.10 General Assessment
 IMAS 08.20 Land Release
 IMAS 08.21 Non-Technical Survey
 IMAS 08.22 Technical Survey
 IMAS 08.30 Post-clearance Documentation
 IMAS 08.40 Marking of Hazards

Series 09: Mine/ERW Clearance

IMAS 09.10 Clearance Requirements
 IMAS 09.11 BAC
 IMAS 09.12 EOD Clearance ASA
 IMAS 09.20 Post-clearance Inspections
 IMAS 09.30 EOD
 IMAS 09.40 Use of Mine Detection Dogs (MDD)
 IMAS 09.41
 IMAS 09.42
 IMAS 09.43
 IMAS 09.44
 IMAS 09.50 Mechanical demining

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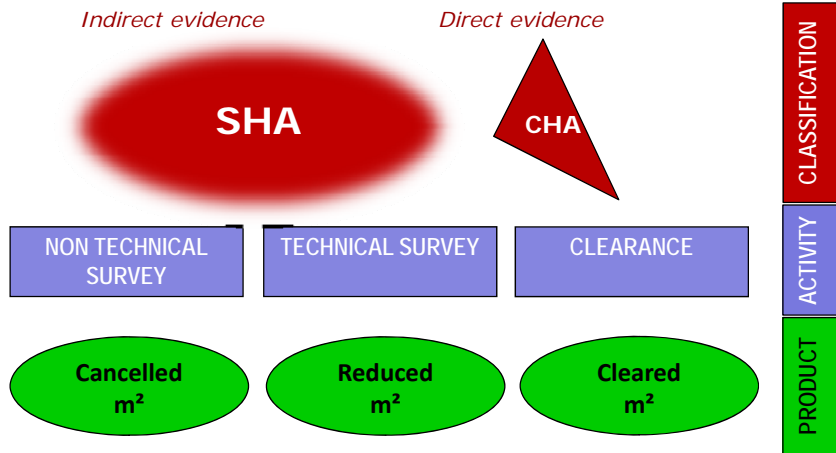
GICHD | CIDHG 

> General Approach

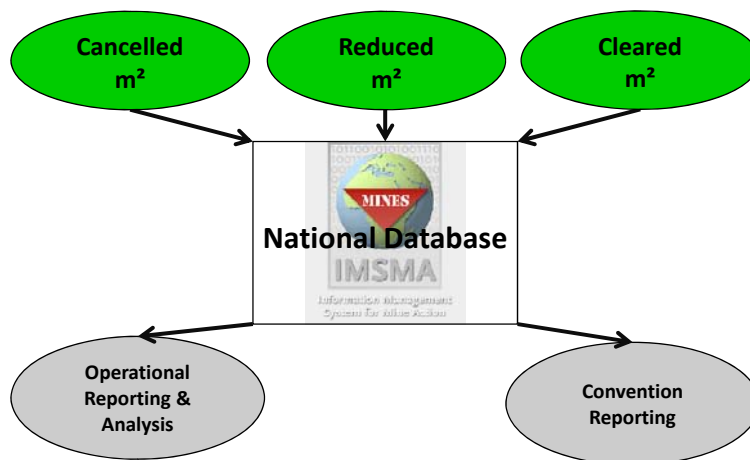
- > Clearer standards describing minimum requirements
- > More 'ISO' compatible language
- > Clarification of terminology
- > Emphasis on a 2-tier system of land classification SHA/CHA
- > Promote greater standardisation of reporting according to products of NTS, TS and clearance

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Land Release Process



Reporting



Arabic-language Outreach Programme Operational Efficiency and Land Release Training Course in Jordan, May 2013



Operations Officers/ operations Staff from 13 Arabic speaking countries

Practical Training Outreach NON TECHNICAL SURVEY



- > targeted and systematic technical surveys
- > where to start / stop
- > reaching confidence

- > mapping and survey techniques
- > criteria for evidence based SHA/CHA

Practical Training Outreach TECHNICAL SURVEY



GICHD/ISU Side Event

The Amended Land Release International Mine Action Standards

- Implications for Operations and the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

**Thursday, 29 May 2013
Jura Room, 3rd floor, 13:00 - 15:00**