



Fact Sheet

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Compliance

HMA CHE. 2873.4

Within the framework of the PfP Partnership Work Programme, the Swiss Government, through the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), has the honour to invite qualified representatives from the National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs) to the above-mentioned course.

The training course “IMAS and Compliance” is a five-day intensive course, which aims to both; ensure that the most up to date developments in IMAS are understood across the sector, and to further strengthen the relationships between key overarching issues of risk, method, quality management and information management. These are key areas to improve safety, efficiency and quality, thereby ensuring confidence in mine action outputs. The workshop is aimed at mine action officials and practitioners from affected countries, officials from mine action agencies in donor countries, and other representatives as specifically selected by the Swiss Ministry of Defence and the GICHD. This course is also designed for National Officers and military personnel responsible for or engaged in the development of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), who are conversant with IMAS. It is also relevant for military personnel, responsible for pre-deployment trainings of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) experts or engineer units in the framework of peace support operations. The aspired outcome is enabling participants to apply the acquired knowledge to improve and upgrade their national standards. The course will include introductory sessions on new guidance being developed to assist with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) operations in humanitarian settings.

Course Outline

The course includes presentations, discussions, group work and simulated field exercise. These sessions will cover effective and efficient implementation of national QMS to complement risk management (including threat analysis and threat assessment), information management and land release methods and the definition of concepts such as “All Reasonable Effort” and “Compliance”.

International Mine Action Standards

The IMAS provide guidance, establish principles and, in some cases, define international requirements and specifications for the mine action sector. They are designed to improve the safety, efficiency and quality in mine action,

and to promote a common and consistent approach to the conduct of mine action operations. The IMAS are the main guide for the development of NMAS, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and training material in mine action. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is mandated with developing and maintaining the IMAS. Drafting, re-viewing and revising the IMAS is conducted by a technical Review Board with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. This process is managed and coordinated by the GICHD. The GICHD also disseminates them on behalf of the UN and helps NMAAs in the design and development of IMAS-compliant NMAS. IMAS follow the format of the International Organization for Standards (ISO) and draw on the three main treaties in international law which deal with Explosive Ordnance (as defined in IMAS 01.10).

Application of IMAS

The IMAS have three main applications;

- They are issued as a guide to the mine action community to explain the agreed quality of work required in a programme;
- They are a framework for the development of NMAS, which can more accurately reflect specific local realities and circumstances in a given country. NMAS should take the IMAS into account but will not necessarily follow the IMAS in every respect. NMAS will differ from country to country depending on the local situation;
- Where there are no NMAS, the IMAS may be directly applied as NMAS and can also be the legal basis for developing contracts.

Course objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- Enhance the understanding on the development and applications of IMAS;
- Enhance the understanding on how to develop IMAS-compliant NMAS;
- Enhance the understanding of the most recent developments within the IMAS framework and potential implications for NMAS;
- Enhance the understanding of how Risk Management (RM), Information Management (IM) and Quality Management (QM) support an evidence-based decision-making process.

Additional Information / details	
EAPWP Code	HMA CHE. 2873.4
Nickname	International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Compliance
Type	Training Course
Target Audience / Level	The workshop is aimed at mine action officials and practitioners from mine affected countries, officials from mine action agencies in donor countries, and other representatives as specifically selected by the Swiss Ministry of Defence and the GICHD. This course is also designed for National Officers and military personnel responsible for or engaged in the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), who are conversant with IMAS. It is also relevant for military personnel, responsible for pre-deployment trainings of EOD experts or engineer units in the framework of peace support operations. Participants should also be able to communicate and present on their national standards in English.
Duration / Date	5 days / 4 - 8 May 2020
Location	Spiez, Switzerland
Language Requirements	<p>Participants must have the following standards of proficiency in English (as described in STANAG 6001): 3221.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listening (good / 3) ▪ Speaking (fair / 2) ▪ Reading (fair / 2) ▪ Writing (elementary/ 1) <p>Language requirements are compulsory and have to be confirmed by applicants' superiors - No interpreters are provided for this course.</p>
Costs	<p>The Swiss Government will cover participant expenses for food and accommodation while in Spiez (3 May 2020, earliest date of arrival to 9 May 2020, latest date of departure). Train tickets Zurich Airport – Spiez – Zurich Airport will be reimbursed to the participants (only second class tickets). Flights to and from Switzerland have to be covered by the participant's organisation.</p> <p>There are up to three subsidies for transportation to and from Switzerland available. It is imperative that applicants wishing sponsorships for flights contact the GICHD pfp@gichd.org before registering and not later than the application deadline on 31 January 2020.</p>
Application	<p>In order to apply, please use the following link for our online registration page, where you will be asked to provide relevant personal information and upload your CV: https://training.gichd.org/</p> <p>A letter of endorsement is required from the superior to complete the registration. The registration form should be filled in no later than 31 January 2020.</p>
Restrictions	<p>Course is open to NATO/PfP, MD, ICI and Contact States.</p> <p>Course participation is limited to 20; as far as possible 2 slots per nation will be accepted.</p> <p>Registration deadline: not later than 31 January 2020.</p> <p>Allocation will be on application basis! The acceptance will be submitted mid-February 2020.</p>
Liability	The Swiss Armed Forces do not cover health care expenses. All participants are themselves responsible for adequate insurance (health, accident and liability) or need a governmental guarantee to cover any health care expenses in Switzerland.
Additional Course Information	<p>Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C P.O. Box 1300 1211 Geneva 1 Switzerland Pfp@gichd.org</p>