



Press Release

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A Guide to the International Mine Action Standards: new edition

The *International Mine Action Standards* (IMAS) are standards issued by the United Nations to guide the planning, implementation and management of national mine action programmes.

The IMAS cover a wide range of issues from accreditation of mine detection dogs to medical support for demining teams, from safety and occupational health to survey, from sampling of cleared land to the storage and transport of explosives. The IMAS are comparable to the standards drafted in the framework of the ISO – International Organisation for Standardisation.

The “Guide” is intended to explain in summary form the purpose of each standard. It should assist government officials, donors and newcomers to the subject, and guide their work in finding what standards best apply to their local situation. For ease of use, IMAS are broken down into a number of “series”, each of which deals with a different aspect of mine action, with its own colour code. It covers the Standards in series 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14. The other series are still under development.

The GICHD develops the IMAS under a mandate of the United Nations. It coordinates the process of preparing, reviewing and revising the IMAS through the assistance of technical committees and the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. The Centre has started an outreach programme which will be available to all mine affected countries and is aimed to assist in the application of IMAS into national mine action standards.

Copies of the IMAS “Guide” can be ordered via the GICHD web-site :

<http://www.gichd.ch/482.0.html>

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