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Invitation to the CEN Workshop on the Test & Evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment (CW 26)

We are pleased to inform you that the CEN Workshop 26 PPE for Humanitarian Mine Action process has begun. The first technical meeting will be held on the 5th and 6th of September 2006 at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

This is an open invitation to those with an interest in the Test and Evaluation (T&E) of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to participate in the workshop with the aim of establishing a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) on the T&E of PPE. To achieve a practical and valuable test protocol, we require the participation of the field operators, manufacturers and those with experience in T&E.

Additional detailed information regarding this workshop will be available from the 20th of July 2006 on the web site <http://li.sis.se/cenws26> . Access to this web site will be given to you after registration. For registration please see below.

Background

There is much T&E work performed for the demining community today, however, it does not always reflect the practical results required by field operators and equipment manufacturers. The field operators in this case are the deminers and they are exposed to risks that are different from most other situations. PPE is today widely used by soldiers and policemen and existing test methodologies do not reflect the typical threats from mines and UXO in the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) context. These tests do not show if the equipment fulfils the protection requirements of a deminer in his work. In order to improve the situation and produce consistent results applicable to HMA, it is necessary to develop uniform T&E Standards to ensure that the conduct of testing is performed under specific repeatable conditions and with strict technical monitoring and supervision.

The European Commission (EC) Communication for the proposed European Parliament and Council Regulation concerning action against anti-personnel landmines calls for the establishment of such international Specifications and Methodology for the T&E of equipment and of their subsequent implementation. This work is to be undertaken in close co-operation with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations (UN).

The EC has granted a mandate to the European Standardization Bodies to proceed with this standardization. This will include minefield survey, close-in detection and identification of anti-personnel land mines (APL), information fusion and information management, quality assurance in the whole process of mine clearance, and for T&E of any tool in support of humanitarian demining operations.

The GICHD will act as the 'driving force' for this CEN Workshop with technical standardization support being provided by the Swedish Standards Institute (SIS).

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SIS, Swedish Standards Institute

SIS is the Swedish member of ISO and CEN

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Objectives of the CEN Workshop

The aim of this CEN Workshop is to agree well-defined specifications for:

- vital criteria to be tested; and
- appropriate testing methodology(ies);

Some key element will be:

- Defining the threat scenario;
- specifications for reliably replicable simulated threats;
- specifications for carrying out, and recording the results of, tests in a uniform manner; and
- specifications for determining ergonomic criteria and constraints required by the HMA end-users.

Time Schedule

The kick-off meeting for the initiation of the CEN Workshop process was held on the 8th of June 2006, during which the Business Plan was presented, updated and subsequently endorsed. The business plan is published on the website

<http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/businessdomains/technicalcommitteesworkshops/workshops/ws26.asp>

The first CEN Workshop meeting is to be held at the GICHD in Geneva, Switzerland on the **5th to 6th of September 2006** to design the basis for the CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) such as specifications of risk, ergonomic criteria etc. Test methodologies will also be discussed.

The second CEN Workshop meeting is planned to be held **4th to 6th of December 2006** at a location to be agreed at the first workshop in September to develop the first draft of the CWA.

The third CEN Workshop meeting, if required, is scheduled to be held in March 2007. The exact date and place will be determined by the second workshop.

It is intended to form a workshop drafting committee to develop the document in progress. This will be formalised at the first workshop in September.

Registration

It is our hope that you will believe this work to be both important and interesting, and that you will be able to contribute to this CEN Workshop.

To register your interest in participating in this workshop you just have to send an E-mail to Mrs. Christine Allansson christine.allansson@sis.se stating your name, organisation, postal address, E-mail address, telephone number.



Date
2006-07-04

Reference

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You will then be given access to the web site for the workshop and provided with the necessary information about the meetings and how to plan your travel and accommodation.

This CEN Workshop has the provision to provide limited financial assistance to certain participants in the form of subsidised travel and accommodation costs. Those organisations or individuals wishing to apply for such assistance are requested to provide a direct application to the Chairman t.lardner@gichd.ch. The provision of any such assistance is entirely at the discretion of the Driving Force of the workshop.

Sincerely,

Tim Lardner
GICHD

Kaj Hörberg
SIS

Co Chair of the Workshop