



# RMDS/G 05.40

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## Ammunition and Explosives Storage and Safety

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### **Warning**

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## Foreword

On 08 May 2003 the development of regional micro-disarmament<sup>1</sup> standards and guidelines was discussed during the RACVIAC sponsored seminar on '**SALW - A year after Implementation of the Stability Pact Plan**'. The consensus was that such standards and guidelines were desirable, and SEESAC agreed to develop a framework and then take responsibility for the future development of regional standards. It was agreed RMDS/G would be designed to support the work at the operational level, and would go further than the more generic 'best practice' documents currently available. After a wide-ranging discussion between stakeholders as to the status of RMDS/G it has been agreed that the term 'standards' will refer to the technical issues, whilst 'guidelines' will apply to 'programme' issues.

This RMDS/G<sup>2</sup> reflects the development of operational procedures, practices and norms, which have occurred over the past four years in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)<sup>3</sup> control. Best operational practices have been identified and reviewed from within the region and beyond, and included as appropriate within this RMDS/G.

SEESAC has a mandate under the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan to fulfil, among others, operational objectives of 1) sharing information on and enhancing co-operation in the establishment and implementation of SALW control and reduction programmes and approaches among regional actors; and 2) providing linkage and co-ordination with the other relevant regional initiatives. The development of RMDS/G is one means of fulfilling that mandate.

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising these standards and guidelines is conducted by SEESAC, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations and consultants. The latest version of each standard, together with background information on the development work, can be found at [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org). RMDS/G will be reviewed at least every three years to reflect developing SALW control norms and practices, and to incorporate changes to international regulations and requirements. The latest review was conducted on 01 March 2006, which has reflected the development of the UN Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) [www.unddr.org](http://www.unddr.org), which include RMDS/G as a normative reference in the Disarmament and the SALW Control modules.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as: 'The monitoring, collection, control and final disposal of small arms, related ammunition and explosives and light weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. It includes the development of responsible weapons and ammunition management programmes'. Often used interchangeably with SALW control in the past, but SALW Control is now the recognised terminology. The term Micro-Disarmament has only been used here to ensure consistency of the RMDS/G concept, rather than renaming the standards.

<sup>2</sup> The layout and format of RMDS/G are based on the highly successful International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The cooperation of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is acknowledged by SEESAC during the development of RMDS/G.

<sup>3</sup> There is no agreed international definition of SALW. For the purposes of RMDS/G the following definition will apply: '**All lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or a light vehicle, that also do not require a substantial logistic and maintenance capability**'

## Introduction

The need to reduce risk and to provide a safe working environment are fundamental principles of SALW Control operations. Risk reduction involves a combination of safe working practices and operating procedures, effective supervision and control, appropriate education and training, equipment of inherently safe design, and the provision of effective personal protective equipment and clothing.

The provision of a safe working environment includes the safe storage, transportation and handling of explosives and explosive materials. This requires appropriate storage facilities, equipment and vehicles to be made available, and for national SALW authorities and SALW Control organisations to develop and maintain appropriate policy and procedures. Where existing national government regulations differ from those contained in RMDS/G, the more stringent requirement should be met.

This standard<sup>4</sup> provides national SALW authorities and SALW Control organisations with guidance on the safe storage, transportation and handling of explosives and explosive materials. Specifications for the storage of explosives and safety distances are those provided by NATO Allied Ammunition Storage and Transport Principles (AASPT) and are consistent with the United Nations' Draft Ammunition and Explosives Regulations. These specifications should not normally be reduced without the advice of a professionally qualified explosives engineer.

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<sup>4</sup> This RMDS/G is also based on IMAS 10.50.

# Ammunition and explosives storage and safety

## 1 Scope

This RMDS/G provides specifications and guidelines for the safe storage, transportation and handling of ammunition and explosives that are either: 1) recovered during SALW collection operations; 2) awaiting destruction; or 3) are surplus in storage.

In this standard, the term 'explosives' is used to refer to both explosives and explosive materials, unless stated otherwise in the text. (See Clause 3 below).

## 2 References

A list of normative references is given in Annex A. Normative references are important documents to which reference is made in this standard, and which form part of the provisions of this standard.

## 3 Terms and definitions

A list of terms and definitions used in this standard is given in Annex B. A complete glossary of all the terms and definitions used in the RMDS/G series of standards is given in RMDS/G 02.10.

In the RMDS/G series of standards, the words 'shall', 'should' and 'may' are used to indicate the intended degree of compliance. This use is consistent with the language used in ISO standards and guidelines.

- a) 'shall' is used to indicate requirements, methods or specifications that are to be adopted in order to satisfy the standard in full;
- b) 'should' is used to indicate the preferred requirements, methods or specifications; and
- c) 'may' is used to indicate a possible method or course of action.

The term '**national authority**' refers to the government department(s), organisation(s) or institution(s) in each SALW country charged with the regulation, management and co-ordination of SALW activities.

The term '**SALW Control organisation**' refers to any organisation (government, NGO or commercial entity) responsible for implementing SALW control projects or tasks. The SALW Control organisation may be a prime contractor, subcontractor, consultant or agent.

The term '**explosives**' is used to refer to a substance or mixture of substances, which, under external influences, is capable of rapidly releasing energy in the form of gases and heat.

The term '**explosive materials**' is used to refer to components or ancillary items used by SALW Control organisations, which contain some explosives, or behave in an explosive manner, such as detonators, fuzes and primers.

The term '**ammunition**' (or munition) is used to refer to a complete device charged with **explosives**, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating composition, or nuclear, biological or chemical material for use in military operations, including **demolitions**. [AAP-6].

**Note:** In common usage, 'munitions' (plural) can be military weapons, ammunition and equipment.

## 4 General requirements

Modern ammunition and explosives are safe if they are stored, transported and handled in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. SALW Control organisations should not use explosives of uncertain origin or age, or when the environmental storage conditions have not met the manufacturers' requirements. The national SALW control authority or SALW Control organisation may impose additional requirements based on local experience and conditions.

## 5 International legislation

### 5.1 Movement of explosives by road

The movement by road of explosives is a complex issue dependent on what area of the world the demilitarization operation is to take place. In Europe, for example, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) applies. A summary of this treaty, which illustrates the dangers and risk reduction measures to be implemented can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/intro.htm>.

The UN have issued United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations (*Eleventh revised edition*). Details of how to obtain this publication can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/pubdet.htm>.

### 5.2 Storage of ammunition and explosives

There are no specific international regulations or codes of practice that relate directly to the safe storage of ammunition and explosives, this is a national responsibility.

However, international alliances do have consolidated literature that covers this technical area. An excellent example is the NATO Allied Ammunition Storage and Transportation Publications 1 and 2 (AASTP 1 and 2) - Safety Principles for the Storage and Transport of Military Ammunition and Explosives.

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, FSC.DOC/1/03, Vienna, 19 November 2003 provides a mechanism for assistance in the management of conventional ammunition stockpiles.

## 6 Environmental requirements

The environmental requirements (temperature, humidity and vibration) of ammunition and explosives vary, and are dependent on their intended storage conditions (including shelf life), transportation, handling and use. The performance of explosives will be unpredictable and the safety will be reduced if the manufacturers' environmental conditions are not met. In general, explosives should be:

- a) kept dry and well ventilated;
- b) kept as cool as possible and free from excessive or frequent changes of temperature;
- c) protected from direct sunlight; and
- d) kept free from excessive and constant vibration.

**Note:** Some substances used in ammunition and explosives attract and hold moisture, which may result in the degradation of explosive performance. It may also cause them to become dangerous to handle, due to the potential for the formation of sensitive explosive crystals between the fuze and main body of the munition. Rain, dampness and humidity can cause enormous damage to ammunition and explosives in a very short time. Every effort shall be made to ensure dry conditions prevail in storage and transportation.

**Note:** Good ventilation of explosives will keep them cool and prevent condensation.



**Note:** Non-explosive materials, fabric including felt, paper and other materials which absorb water create the conditions which may cause the corrosion and decay of other materials in the same container.

## **7 Storage requirements**

### **7.1 Storage design**

General requirements for the design of magazines and containers used for the storage and transport of explosives used in the SALW Control process are given in Annex C.

### **7.2 Warning signs and symbols**

The national SALW control authority shall specify the warning signs and symbols to be used on explosive storage facilities in their countries.

### **7.3 Fire prevention**

SALW Control organisations shall establish and maintain fire prevention policies and SOPs, which should be based on the general principles given in Annex D.

### **7.4 Table of safety distances**

SALW Control organisations shall apply the safety distances for the storage of explosives given in Annex E, unless instructed otherwise by the national SALW control authority.

### **7.5 Indoor storage**

No indoor storage magazine shall be located in a residence or dwelling or office building.

## **8 Transportation requirements**

### **8.1 General**

SALW Control organisations shall establish and maintain SOPs that give procedures for the safe transportation of explosives. The procedures should include the following requirements:

- a) ensure the security of explosives;
- b) transport explosives in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and specifications, and other relevant international and national standards and regulations provided by the national SALW control authority; and
- c) avoid accidents.

### **8.2 Passengers**

SALW Control organisations should not normally transport passengers with explosives. If it is necessary that passengers are carried in the same vehicle as explosives, a team member shall be appointed as the responsible person in charge. The responsible person shall then ensure the safety of passengers and enforce all fire hazard precautions.

### **8.3 Transporting detonators and explosives**

Detonators and explosives shall not be carried on the same vehicle unless the storage container for the detonators meets the minimum design requirements given in Annex C.

### **8.4 Special Equipment**

The following additional equipment shall be carried on all vehicles transporting explosive:

- a) two 9 litre water extinguishers or equivalent; and
- b) a container for storing smoking materials, matches, lighters, cigarettes etc.

## **9 Handling**

SALW Control organisations shall establish and maintain SOPs that give procedures for the safe handling of explosives. The procedures should include the following requirements.

- a) access to explosives shall be tightly controlled;
- b) explosives shall be handled in accordance with the manufactures instructions and specifications and other relevant standards and regulations provided by the national SALW control authority; and
- c) only suitably qualified SALW Control personnel, or personnel supervised by a qualified supervisor shall handle or use explosives.

## **10 Inert, drill, instructional or replica mines and ammunition**

Ammunition and explosives are inherently dangerous and it is essential that everyone involved in the handling and movement of ammunition should exercise extreme care. It is obviously safer to use inert or drill ammunition and explosives for training or display purposes, but this requirement also carries its own specific risks. It is therefore a fundamental principle of ammunition and explosive safety that live ammunition and explosives are never mixed with inert, drill, instructional or replica ammunition and explosives. This is a proven principle designed to ensure that the risk of accidents during training and instruction is reduced to the minimum. The consequences of live mines and ammunition being inadvertently used during training could result in fatalities or injuries.

There is no specific international legislation that refers to the use of inert, drill, instructional and replica mines and ammunition, therefore this part of the RMDS/G has been derived from 'best practice'.

SALW Control organisations shall establish and maintain SOPs that give procedures for the storage and handling of inert, drill, instructional or replica mines and ammunition. The procedures shall include the requirements contained at Annex G.

## **11 Physical security**

SALW Control organisations shall provide for appropriate levels of physical security for explosives in their possession during storage, transportation and use. Consideration should be given not only to the immediate physical security provided by the storage facility, but also to accounting procedures and control of access. There may be occasions when additional measures such as appropriately equipped guards are necessary. The national standard should be the minimum level provided.

## **12 Areas of responsibility**

### **12.1 National SALW authority<sup>5</sup>**

The national SALW authority shall develop documented procedures for the storage, transportation and handling of explosives, which include:

- a) standards for storage of explosives, including storage on SALW collection sites;
- b) standards for the carriage of explosives, including warning signs and symbols to be used on vehicles; and

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<sup>5</sup> In this case the national SALW authority, if the same as the national SALW commission, may be responsible to itself.

- c) safety distances for the storage and handling of explosives.

## **12.2 SALW Control organisation**

The SALW Control organisation shall establish and maintain SOPs that comply with the provisions of this RMDS/G, established international standards, the national SALW authority standards and other relevant standards or regulations.

In the absence of a national SALW authority or authorities, the SALW Control organisation should assume additional responsibilities. These include, but are not restricted to:

- a) issue, maintain and update their own regulations, codes of practice, SOPs and other suitable provisions on the storage, transportation and handling of explosives;
- b) co-operate with other employees in the same country to ensure consistency of standards for the storage, transportation and handling of explosives; and
- c) assist in framing national regulations and codes of practice for the storage, transportation and handling of explosives.

## **12.3 SALW Control workers**

Workers on SALW Control programmes shall;

- a) comply with instructions given for their own conduct and safety when carrying out the storage, transportation and handling of explosives; and
- b) report forthwith to their immediate superior any situation associated with the storage, transportation and handling of explosives which they have reason to believe could present a hazard which they cannot themselves correct.

## **12.4 Regional organizations**

In certain areas of the world, regional organizations have been given a mandate by their member states to coordinate and support SALW control programmes within a state national boundaries. (For example EUFOR within Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In these circumstances the regional organization should assume many of the responsibilities and roles of the national SALW authority, and could also act as a conduit for donor resources. The responsibilities and roles of regional organizations for SALW control will vary from state to state and may be subject to specific Memoranda of Understanding, or similar agreements.

## **12.5 SEESAC**

SEESAC shall provide operational assistance, technical assistance and management information, within resources and on request, to all SALW intervention programmes within South Eastern and Eastern Europe, and assistance to SALW intervention programmes worldwide through the drafting and issuing of RMDS/G.

## **Annex A (Informative) References**

The following normative documents contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of the standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of the standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid ISO or EN:

- a) OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, FSC.DOC/1/03, Vienna, 19 November 2003;
- b) OSCE Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security;
- c) Institute of Makers of Explosives; Safety Library Publication No. 22 – 'Recommendations for the safe transportation of detonators in a vehicle with certain other explosive materials';
- d) NATO Allied Ammunition Storage and Transportation Publications 1 and 2 (AASTP 1 and 2) - Safety Principles for the Storage and Transport of Military Ammunition and Explosives;
- e) European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR); and
- f) United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations (*Eleventh revised edition*).

The latest version/edition of these references should be used. SEESAC hold copies of all references used in this standard. A register of the latest version/edition of the RMDS/G standards, guides and references is maintained by SEESAC, and can be read on the RMDS/G website: <http://www.seesac.org/>. National SALW authorities, employers and other interested bodies and organisations should obtain copies before commencing SALW programmes.

## Annex B (Informative) Terms and definitions

### B.1.1

#### **accident**

an undesired event which results in **harm**

**Note:** Modified from definition in OHSAS 18001:1999,

### B.1.2

#### **ammunition**

See **munition**

### B.1.3

#### **deflagration**

the conversion of **explosives** into gaseous products by chemical reactions at or near the surface of the explosive (cf **detonation**).

### B.1.4

#### **demilitarisation**

the complete range of processes that render weapons, ammunition, mines and explosives unfit for their originally intended purpose.<sup>6</sup>

**Note:** Demilitarisation not only involves the final destruction process, but also includes all of the other transport, storage, accounting and pre-processing operations that are equally as critical to achieving the final result.

### B.1.5

#### **destruction**

the process of final conversion of weapons, ammunition, mines and explosives into an inert state that can no longer function as designed.

### B.1.6

#### **detonator**

a device containing a sensitive **explosive** intended to produce a **detonation** wave. [AAP-6]

### B.1.7

#### **detonation**

the rapid conversion of **explosives** into gaseous products by means of a shock wave passing through the explosive (c.f. **deflagration**). Typically, the velocity of such a shock wave is more than two orders of magnitude higher than a fast **deflagration**.

### B.1.8

#### **diurnal cycling**

the exposure of ammunition and explosives to the temperature changes induced by day, night and change of season.

### B.1.9

#### **disposal site**

an area authorised for the destruction of **ammunition** and **explosives** by **detonation** and burning.

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<sup>6</sup> IMAS 11.10.

**B.1.10**

**drill**

an inert replica of ammunition specifically manufactured for drill, display or instructional purposes.

**B.1.11**

**explosives**

a substance or mixture of substances which, under external influences, is capable of rapidly releasing energy in the form of gases and heat. [AAP-6].

**B.1.12**

**explosive materials**

components or ancillary items which contain some **explosives**, or behave in an explosive manner, such as **detonators** and **primers**.

**B.1.13**

**explosive ordnance**

all munitions containing **explosives**, nuclear fission or fusion materials and biological and chemical agents. This includes bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms **ammunition**; all **mines**, torpedoes and depth charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge and propellant actuated devices; electro-explosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices; and all similar or related items or components explosive in nature. [AAP-6]

**B.1.14**

**Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)**

the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and final disposal of unexploded explosive ordnance. It may also include the rendering-safe and/or disposal of such explosive ordnance, which have become hazardous by damage or deterioration, when the disposal of such explosive ordnance is beyond the capabilities of those personnel normally assigned the responsibility for routine disposal.<sup>7</sup>

**Note:**

The presence of ammunition and explosives during SALW Control operations will inevitably require some degree of EOD response. The level of this response will be dictated by the condition of the ammunition, its level of deterioration and the way that it is handled by the local community.

**B.1.15**

**firearm**

a barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barrelled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm.<sup>8</sup>

**B.1.16**

**fuze**

a device which initiates an **explosive** train. [AAP-6]

**B.1.17**

**inert**

an item of ammunition that contains no explosive, pyrotechnic, lachrymatory, radioactive, chemical, biological or other toxic components or substances.

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<sup>7</sup> UN Guidelines for Stockpile Destruction, June 2000.

<sup>8</sup> Criminal Code of Canada (CCofC) Section (S) 2 'Interpretation' Paragraph 2.

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**Note:** An inert munition differs from a drill munition in that it has not necessarily been specifically manufactured for instructional purposes. The inert state of the munition may have resulted from a render safe procedure or other process to remove all dangerous components and substances. It also refers to the state of the munition during manufacture prior to the filling or fitting of explosive or hazardous components and substances.

**B.1.18  
lachrymatory ammunition**

lachrymatory ammunition contains chemical compounds that are designed to incapacitate by causing short-term tears or inflammation of the eyes.

**B.1.19  
magazine**

any building, structure or container approved for the storage of explosive materials.

**B.1.20  
micro-disarmament**

the collection, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives, light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. It includes the development of responsible weapons and ammunition management programmes.

**B.1.21  
micro-disarmament organisation**

refers to any organisation (government, military or commercial entity) responsible for implementing SALW Control projects or tasks. The organisation may be a prime contractor, subcontractor, consultant or agent.

**B.1.22  
munition**

a complete device charged with **explosives**, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating composition, or nuclear, biological or chemical material for use in military operations, including **demolitions**. [AAP-6].

**Note:** In common usage, 'munitions' (plural) can be military weapons, ammunition and equipment.

**B.1.23  
NATO**

(North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)

**B.1.24  
national authority**

*in the context of SALW, the term refers to..* the government department(s), organization(s) or institution(s) in a country charged with the regulation, management and coordination of **SALW** activities.

**B.1.25  
non-sparking material**

material that will not produce a spark when struck with other tools, rocks, or hard surfaces

**B.1.26  
particle board**

a composition board made of small pieces of wood, bonded together

**B.1.27  
primer**

a self-contained **munition** which is fitted into a cartridge case or firing mechanism and provides the means of igniting the propellant charge.

**B.1.28**

**safe**

the absence of risk. Normally the term **tolerable risk** is more appropriate and accurate.

**B.1.29**

**Safe to Move**

a technical assessment, by an appropriately qualified technician or technical officer, of the physical condition and stability of ammunition and explosives prior to any proposed move.

**Note:** Should the ammunition and explosives fail a 'Safe to Move' inspection, then they must be destroyed in situ, or as close as is practically possible, by a qualified EOD team acting under the advice and control of the qualified technician or technical officer who conducted the initial Safe to Move inspection.

**B.1.30**

**safety**

the reduction of risk to a tolerable level. [ISO Guide 51:1999(E)]

degree of freedom from unacceptable **risk**. [ISO Guide 51: 1999(E)]

**B.1.31**

**Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

all lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or a light vehicle, that also do not require a substantial logistic and maintenance capability.

**Note:** There are a variety of definitions for SALW circulating and international consensus on a 'correct' definition has yet to be agreed. For the purposes of RMDS/G the above definition will be used.

**B.1.32**

**standard**

a standard is a documented agreement containing technical specifications or other precise criteria to be used consistently as rules, guidelines, or definitions of characteristics to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose.

**Note:** RMDS/G aim to improve safety and efficiency in SALW Control by promoting the preferred procedures and practices at both headquarters and field level. To be effective, the standards should be definable, measurable, achievable and verifiable.

**B.1.33**

**standing operating procedures (SOPs)**

standard operating procedures

instructions which define the preferred or currently established method of conducting an operational task or activity.

**Note:** Their purpose is to promote recognisable and measurable degrees of discipline, uniformity, consistency and commonality within an organization, with the aim of improving operational effectiveness and safety. SOPs should reflect local requirements and circumstances.

**B.1.34**

**stockpile**

*in the context of SALW, the term refers to ..... a large accumulated stock of **weapons** and **EO**.*

**B.1.35**

**stockpile destruction**

the physical activities and destructive procedures leading to a reduction of the national **stockpile**.



**B.1.36**

**stockpile management**

those procedures and activities regarding SALW safety and security in accounting, storage, transportation and handling.

**B.1.37**

**theft resistant**

construction designed to deter and/or delay illegal entry into facilities used for the storage of explosives.

**B.1.38**

**tolerable risk**

**risk** which is accepted in a given context based on the current values of society. [ISO Guide 51: 1999 (E)]

**B.1.39**

**Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)**

explosive ordnance which has been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for action, and which has been dropped, fired, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to operations, installations, personnel or material and remains unexploded either by malfunction or design or for any other cause.<sup>9</sup>

**B.1.40**

**weapon**

any thing used, designed or used or intended for use:<sup>10</sup>

- a) in causing death or injury to any person; or
- b) for the purposes of threatening or intimidating any person and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes a firearm.

**B.1.41**

**weather resistance**

construction designed to provide reasonable protection against weather.

**B.1.42**

**workplace**

all places where employees need to be or to go by reason of their work and which are under the direct or indirect control of the employer. [ILO R164]

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<sup>9</sup> NATO Definition.

<sup>10</sup> Criminal Code of Canada (CCofC) Section (S) 2 'Interpretation' Paragraph 2.

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## **Annex C** (Informative) **General requirements for the construction of Magazines**

### **C.1 Permanent structure**

A permanent structure magazine may be a building, igloo, tunnel or dugout. It shall be bullet resistant, fire-resistant theft resistant, weather resistant and ventilated. Consideration should be given to ground and local features during design and siting of such structures.

Footings for concrete, concrete blocks, stone or brick construction shall be designed and constructed in accordance national building standards. If piers or posts are used the area under the building should be enclosed with metal.

Walls shall be constructed of a combination of steel, wood, masonry or other materials, which are fire resistant and structurally sound.

**Note:** Any wood on the exterior of the building shall be covered with fire resistant material. (Where possible, wood should be avoided due to the inherent fire risk).

**Note:** Voids in concrete blocks clay blocks should be filled with well tamped dry sand or well tamped sand cement mixture.

**Note:** Interior walls should be clad with wood or other suitable non-sparking material.

Floors should be ideally be concrete, coated with a suitable non-sparking material.

The roof shall be constructed of structurally sound materials, which are or have been made fire and weather resistant. The roof or ceiling should include a thermal shield designed to assist in maintaining interior temperatures below 40<sup>0</sup> Celsius.

Doors shall fit tightly. Hinges and locking-ware shall be rigidly attached by welding, riveting or bolting which cannot be removed when the door is locked. The doors should be fitted so as to open outward.

Adequate ventilation shall be provided to prevent dampening and heating of stored explosives. Climatic conditions, size of magazine and location will determine the amount of ventilation required.

**Note:** The recommended minimum is 60 cm<sup>2</sup> per 1.0 m<sup>3</sup> of space in the magazine.

The site shall have adequate drainage to prevent water damage to the contents of the magazine

The magazine shall be equipped with at least a five tumbler steel padlock that has at least a 9.5mm diameter casehardened shackle.

### **C.2 Portable or mobile magazine**

A portable magazine is a portable structure such as a skid-mounted container, trailer or semi-trailer.

A portable or mobile magazine shall be theft-resistant, fire-resistant, weather-resistant and bullet resistant. The magazine should be constructed of steel with an interior lining of timber

**Note:** 15.9mm steel with an interior lining of any spark-proof material

12.7 mm steel with an interior lining of not less than 9.5mm plywood or particleboard

9.5mm steel with an interior lining of 57mm of plywood or particle board

The magazine should be supported in a manner that will prevent the magazine from being in contact with the ground. Magazines of less than one cubic metre in size should be fastened to a fixed object to prevent theft of the entire magazine.

Doors shall fit tightly. Hinges and locking-ware shall be rigidly attached by welding riveting or bolting which cannot be removed when the door is locked.

Adequate ventilation shall be provided to prevent dampening and heating of stored explosives. Climatic conditions, size of magazine and location will determine the amount of ventilation required.

Note: The recommended minimum is 60 cm<sup>2</sup> per 1.0 cubic metre of space in the magazine.

The magazine shall be equipped with at least a five tumbler steel padlock has at least a 9.5mm diameter casehardened shackle. Trailers or semi-trailers use as portable magazines should be immobilised by removing the wheels of or locking with a wheel locking device approved by the national SALW control authority.

### **C.3 Day box**

A day box or other portable magazine shall be theft-resistant, fire-resistant and weather-resistant. It need not be bullet resistant.

The day box shall be constructed of not less than 2.6mm steel with an interior lining of not less than 12.7mm plywood or particleboard.

The door of the day box shall overlap the door opening by not less than 25mm. Hinges and locking-ware shall be rigidly attached by welding riveting or bolting which cannot be removed when the door is locked.

The magazine shall be equipped with at least a five tumbler steel padlock that has at least a 9.5mm diameter casehardened shackle. Explosive materials shall not be left unattended in a day box and shall be removed to a portable or mobile magazine or permanent magazine.

### **C.4 Detonator transport container**

Detonators and other explosives may be carried together on a vehicle using a detonator transport container or compartments designed and constructed specifically for that purpose. Use of detonator transport containers shall be under the following conditions:

- a) Explosives that are transported on the same vehicle are limited to:
- Detonators
    - Detonators, electric; 1.4B and 1.4S
    - Detonators electric 1.1B that contain no more than 1gm of explosive (excluding ignition and delay charges and are electric detonators with leg wires 1.2m or longer or
    - Detonators, non-electric 1.4B or 1.4S and
  - Class 1 explosive materials (explosives A,B and C) excluding 1.1A materials

**Note:** IMAS 04.10 includes detailed guidance on the hazard classification and compatibility codes 1.1A, 1.1B, 1.4B and 1.4S

- b) Packaging for detonators described in sub-clause 4.1 a) above are as follows:
- Detonators electric 1.4B, 1.4S and 1.1B that contain no more than 1gm of explosive and are transported in quantities of less than 1000 shall be packed in inner packing or cartons that meet the manufactures specifications before loading into the container.
  - Detonators non-electric 1.4B and 1.4S shall be loaded into the container in the manufacturers original outer packing.
- c) no material is loaded on top of the portable detonator container;
- d) the detonator container shall be secured to the vehicle to prevent movement during transport; and
- e) the container is clearly labelled 'contains explosive, handle with care' in the official languages commonly use in the SALW Control organisation.

## **Annex D** **(Informative)** **Fire prevention**

SALW Control organisations responsible for storing explosives and explosive materials shall establish and maintain documented fire prevention policies and SOPs. The policies and SOPs should include the following.

- a) No smoking within 20m of the magazine. NO SMOKING / NO NAKED LIGHTS signs shall be prominently displayed around the magazine.
- b) Grass and undergrowth shall be cut down and kept short in the area around the magazine.
- c) Flame or spark producing equipment shall not be used within 20 m of a magazine. Where such equipment is required to carry out repairs to the magazine, all explosives shall be removed.
- d) Paints, oils, petrol or any other flammable materials shall not be stored with explosives. Authorised cleaning materials may be used in the magazine for maintenance but are to be removed when not in use.
- e) Empty containers of any type are not to be stored with explosives.
- f) A minimum of two 9.0 l water extinguishers shall be in a prominent position outside each explosive store.
- g) All fire fighting equipment is to be maintained in a fully serviceable condition.
- h) Some form of lightning protection should be used.
- i) A board listing articles that are not permitted into the magazine shall be prominently displayed at the entrance to the magazine. Details of the information to be shown on the board are as follows.
  - Lanterns, oil lamps and stoves and all flame or fire producing appliances.
  - Matches, cigarette lighters or other portable means of producing a spark or flame.
  - Tobacco in any form and any article used for the purpose of smoking.
  - Inflammable liquids and solvents other than those authorised for maintenance work on containers or contained in the tank of a vehicle.
  - Food and drink.
  - Radio equipment (all types) including mobile phones.
  - Firearms with the exception of armed guards.
  - Drugs and medicines other than those forming part of an authorised first aid kit.
  - Ammunition not authorised to be stored.
  - Any unprotected power source.
- j) An external sign on storage facilities shall give details of emergency point of contact to obtain access to the facility, and shall list hazard divisions of the contents.

- k) Grounding. All metallic enclosures for electrical wiring and fittings shall be effectively bonded throughout and grounded.
- l) Fire Alarm. Some method of sounding an alarm in the event of fire shall be in place.
- m) A Fire Symbol shall be displayed outside each building containing ammunition to alert personnel to the hazards associated with the ammunition in the event of fire.

**Annex E**  
(Informative)

**Table of selected safety distances for the storage of explosives (Hazard Division 1.1) <sup>11</sup>**

EXPLOSIVE QUANTITY (KG)	AMMUNITION PROCESS BUILDING	PUBLIC TRAFFIC ROUTE	INHABITED BUILDING	EXPLOSIVE QUANTITY (KG)	AMMUNITION PROCESS BUILDING	PUBLIC TRAFFIC ROUTE	INHABITED BUILDING
	DISTANCE FUNCTION (D13)				DISTANCE FUNCTION (D13)		
	5.5Q <sup>1/2</sup> (Q<4500kg) 22.2Q <sup>1/3</sup> (Q>4500kg)				5.5Q <sup>1/2</sup> (Q<4500kg) 22.2Q <sup>1/3</sup> (Q>4500kg)		
500	270	270	D13 (>400m)	5000	380	380	380
500	270	270	D13 (>400m)	6000	405	405	405
700	270	270	D13 (>400m)	7000	425	425	425
800	270	270	D13 (>400m)	8000	445	445	445
900	270	270	D13 (>400m)	9000	465	465	465
1000	270	270	D13 (>400m)	10000	480	480	480
1200	270	270	D13 (>400m)	12000	510	510	510
1400	270	270	D13 (>400m)	14000	540	540	540
1600	270	270	D13 (>400m)	16000	560	560	560
1800	270	270	D13 (>400m)	18000	590	590	590
2000	270	270	D13 (>400m)	20000	610	610	610
2500	280	280	D13 (>400m)	25000	650	650	650
3000	305	305	D13 (>400m)	30000	690	690	690

<sup>11</sup> Extracted from NATO AASPT 1, Change 2, May 2006, (Annex I-A).730

EXPLOSIVE QUANTITY (KG)	AMMUNITION PROCESS BUILDING	PUBLIC TRAFFIC ROUTE	INHABITED BUILDING	EXPLOSIVE QUANTITY (KG)	AMMUNITION PROCESS BUILDING	PUBLIC TRAFFIC ROUTE	INHABITED BUILDING
	DISTANCE FUNCTION (D13) 5.5Q <sup>1/2</sup> (Q<4500kg) 22.2Q <sup>1/3</sup> (Q>4500kg)				DISTANCE FUNCTION (D13) 5.5Q <sup>1/2</sup> (Q<4500kg) 22.2Q <sup>1/3</sup> (Q>4500kg)		
3500	330	330	D13 (>400m)	35000	730	730	730
4000	350	350	D13 (>400m)	45000	760	760	760

**Note:** Explosive limits licencing is a complex area that SHALL be undertaken by appropriately qualified personnel. The above table is for example only, and DOES NOT apply to all circumstances.

**Note:** The above distances are those to applied from an Open Stack, or Unprotected Explosive Storehouses (ESH). These distances will be reduced for Barricaded ESH, Earth-Covered or Heavy-Walled ESH.



## **Annex F** (Normative) **Hazard classification codes**

### **F.1 Hazard divisions**

Explosive items are allocated one of five Hazard Divisions (HDs); dependent on the hazard it presents when initiated. The HDs are identified by a two number code as follows: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5.

The description and definition of each of the HDs are included in appendix 1 to this annex.

### **F.2 Compatibility groups**

In addition to HDs all ammunition has been allocated to one of twelve Compatibility Groups (CGs) indicated by the letters A to H, J, K, L, and S in order to ensure correct segregation during storage and transportation.

The description and definition of each of the CGs is included as appendix 2 to this annex.

### **F.3 Hazard Classification Code**

Hazard Classification Codes (HCC) are formed by combining the HD and CG of an item of ammunition to produce a two/three number, one letter code. For example '1.1 D' or '1.21C'.

## **Appendix 1 to Annex F (Informative) Ammunition hazard divisions**

Ammunition is divided into five Hazard Divisions (HD) according to the hazard it presents when initiated.

### **HD 1.1 - Ammunition which has a mass explosion hazard**

The explosion will produce severe structural damage to surrounding buildings in the immediate neighbourhood, the severity being determined by the amount of explosives involved and the distance of the buildings from the explosion site. Blast and high speed fragments are the major hazards although there may be a danger from heavy debris propelled from the structure in which the explosion occurs.

### **HD 1.2 - Ammunition which has a projection hazard but not a mass explosion hazard**

The explosion will result in items burning and exploding progressively a few at a time. Fragments, fire brands and unexploded items may be projected in considerable numbers; some of these may explode on impact and propagate fire or explosion. Blast effects will be limited to the immediate vicinity of the explosion site.

For the purpose of determining the quantity distance this hazard division is subdivided, namely:

- a) Subdivision 1.21 - Ammunition which will produce large fragments with a considerable range.
- b) Subdivision 1.22 - Ammunition which will produce small fragments with a limited range.

### **HD 1.3 - Ammunition which has a fire hazard and either a minor blast hazard or a minor projection hazard or both, but not a mass explosion hazard.**

For the purposes of determining the quantity distance this hazard is subdivided, namely:

- a) Subdivision 1.33 - Ammunition which will burn with great violence and intense heat emitting considerable thermal radiation.
- b) Subdivision 1.34 - Ammunition which will burn sporadically. Items may explode producing minor fragments. Firebrands and burning containers may also be projected.

### **HD 1.4 - Ammunition which presents no significant hazard.**

Ammunition included in this division is primarily a moderate fire hazard. It will not contribute excessively to the fire. The effects are largely confined to the package; however the external fire may cause a package to be degraded such that it cannot contain the effects of the ammunition. No fragments of appreciable size or range are to be expected. An external fire will not cause a mass explosion of the total contents of the package when there are a number of items in the package.

### **HD 1.5 - Ammunition which although mass exploding is very insensitive.**

Ammunition in this division is confined to certain bulk explosives that are so insensitive that there is very little probability of initiation or of transition from burning to detonation under normal conditions of storage and transport. For the purposes of determining quantity distances, ammunition belonging to Hazard Division 1.5 is to be deemed to belong to HD 1.1.

## **Appendix 2 to Annex F (Informative) Ammunition compatibility groups**

Ammunition and explosives have been grouped into twelve Compatibility Groups (CGs) A to H, J, K, L and S. Group I is omitted to avoid possible confusion between the letter I and the Roman numeral 1. Group S is given a distinctive letter since it corresponds to a unique possibility for mixing in storage and transport.

### **Definitions of compatibility groupings:**

#### **Group A**

Primary explosive.

#### **Group B**

Ammunition containing primary explosive.

#### **Group C**

Propellant, explosive or other secondary deflagrating explosive or ammunition containing such explosive.

#### **Group D**

Secondary detonating explosive or black powder or ammunition containing secondary detonating explosive, in each case without its own means of initiation and without a propulsive charge.

#### **Group E**

Ammunition containing secondary detonating explosive, without its own means of initiation, with a propulsive charge.

#### **Group F**

Ammunition containing secondary detonating explosive, with its own means of initiation, with or without a propulsive charge.

#### **Group G**

Pyrotechnic substance, or ammunition containing pyrotechnic substance, or ammunition containing both an explosive and an illuminating, incendiary, lachrymatory or smoke producing substance (other than a water-activated article or one containing WP, phosphide or flammable liquid or gel).

#### **Group H**

Ammunition containing both an explosive and WP.

#### **Group J**

Ammunition containing both an explosive and a flammable liquid or gel.

#### **Group K**

Ammunition containing both an explosive and a toxic chemical agent.

#### **Group L**

Ammunition containing explosive and presenting a special risk needing isolation of each type.

#### **Group S**

Ammunition so packaged or designed that any explosive effect during storage or transport is confined within the package except when an external fire has degraded the packaging.

Note: CG D applies only when secondary detonating explosive (high explosive) or black powder is properly packed in a dust-tight container. OTHERWISE, CG L applies.

**Note:** CG D or E may apply to ammunition that is fused or packed together with fuses.

**Note:** CG F does not necessarily apply to ammunition that is fused or packed together with fuses.

## Compatibility groups that may be stored together

Compatibility Group	A	B <sup>1,3</sup>	C	D	E	F <sup>2</sup>	G	H	J	K	L	S
A	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
B	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
C	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
D	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
E	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
F	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
G	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
H	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
J	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
K	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
L	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
S	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

**Figure 1: Compatibility Groups storage table**

**Note:** Detonators may be stored or transported with other materials, provided they are adequately segregated.

**Exception:** Detonators that are not mass detonating may be stored with safety fuse, electric squibs, igniters, or igniter cord and as specified in IMAS 10.50.

**Note:** Compatibility Group F can are stored in the same magazine as C, D and E, but it must be well segregated and the entire quantity must be considered as Compatibility Group F.

**Note:** Fuses in B with D or E of which fuses are components. The load is treated as Compatibility Group F.

**Note:** Compatibility Group G MUST be stored in its standard service packaging for it to be allowed to be stored with C, D or E. Otherwise it MUST be stored separately.

## **Annex G** (Normative)

### **Inert, drill, instructional or replica ammunition and explosives**

#### **G.1 General**

The purpose of this annex is to ensure that inert, drill, instructional or replicas of ammunition and explosives are handled, stored and accounted for accurately, in order to:

- a) avoid accidents;
- b) avoid incidents of mistaken identification leading to unnecessary clearance operations or render safe procedures;
- c) ensure the security of drill and inert ammunition and explosives, and
- d) ensure that drill and inert ammunition and explosives are not subjected to unnecessary damage, which can be expensive.

All authorised breakdown or modification of live ammunition and explosives into inert, drill, instructional or replica items shall be carried out by appropriately qualified and authorised EOD personnel. As such operations carry a high degree of inherent risk, the authorisation for such activities shall be the responsibility of the national programme manager, or equivalent, of the SALW Control organisation.

Note: Drill and replica ammunition and explosives are readily available on the commercial market. They are made up from empty components, either obtained direct from the original manufacturer or specifically made for the purpose. These should be used as the first choice. Locally manufactured drill and instructional mines and ammunition should only be used as a last resort.

National mine SALW authorities and SALW Control organisations should not indulge in the production of FFE ammunition and explosives as souvenirs.

#### **G.2 Storage**

Inert, drill, instructional and other replicas of ammunition and explosives shall not be stored with live ammunition. They shall be stored in a separate location outside the explosive storage area.

Ammunition and explosives that have been subjected to render safe procedures, and have been certified as Free From Explosive (FFE), shall be stored in the same manner as drill and inert ammunition.

Inert, drill, instructional and other replicas of ammunition and explosives shall not be stored in the same containers as live ammunition. They shall be stored in a separate container, which shall be cleared marked INERT or DRILL in the local language. It should also appear in one of the six recognised languages of the United Nations, (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). All other markings shall be eradicated from the container to ensure that there is no possibility that it could mistakenly be identified as containing live ammunition.

### **G.3 Movement**

Inert, drill, instructional and inert replicas of ammunition and explosives shall not be moved in the same containers as live ammunition. They shall be moved in a separate container, which must be cleared marked INERT or DRILL in the local language. It should also appear in one of the six recognised languages of the United Nations, (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). All other markings shall be eradicated from the container to ensure that there is no possibility that it could be mistakenly identified as containing live ammunition.

It is recommended that inert, drill, instructional and other replicas of ammunition and explosives are not moved on the same vehicle as live ammunition wherever possible, but is accepted that local circumstances may not allow for this.

### **G.4 Breakdown of ammunition and explosives**

SALW Control organisations should not breakdown, modify or tamper with ammunition and explosives, unless it is done in the course of inspection, modification or disposal in accordance with the appropriate technical procedures.

Technical procedures for the breakdown or modification of live ammunition and explosives into inert, drill, instructional or replica items shall be developed by appropriately qualified EOD personnel.

### **G.5 Marking of inert or drill ammunition and explosives**

All inert, drill, instructional or other replicas of ammunition and explosives shall be clearly marked on all sides as either '**INERT**' or '**DRILL**' as appropriate DRILL in the local language. It should also appear in one of the six recognised languages of the United Nations, (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). This ensures that they can be clearly identified from all angles, and are therefore do not inadvertently or accidentally become the focus of a clearance operation or render safe procedure.

All inert, drill, instructional or other replicas of ammunition and explosives shall also be marked with a unique serial number. This unique serial number should be in the following format:

**ABC / 1234 / 01**

(SALW Control organisation triagram / Serial Number / Year of manufacture / purchase)

There are no commonly accepted international standard for the body colour marking of ammunition and explosives, although international alliances have made standard agreements (STANAG) for standardisation within their alliance. Consequently it is impracticable to lay down standard body colours for inert, drill, instructional or replica ammunition and explosives as it could lead to a degree of confusion.

If an individual is in any doubt as to the explosive status of an item of ordnance, then it shall be treated as live, and technical EOD advice shall be immediately requested.

### **G.6 Registration and accounting of inert or drill ammunition and explosives**

The SALW Control organisation shall maintain a master register of all inert, drill, instructional or other replica mines and ammunition that it has responsibility for. This register shall include the following information:

- a) serial number;
- b) type of UXO;
- c) current location, and
- d) Free From Explosive (FFE) certificate serial number.

The SALW Control organisation shall operate an appropriate accounting system to ensure accountability and traceability for all inert, drill, instructional or replica mines and ammunition in its possession. It is recommended that this is based on their live ammunition accounting system.

## **G.7 Free From Explosive (FFE) certification**

On initial acquisition, all supposedly inert, drill, instructional or replica ammunition and explosives shall be visually inspected and physically examined by an appropriately qualified EOD technician to ensure that the item contains no explosive, pyrotechnic, lachrymatory, radioactive, chemical, biological or other toxic components or substances. The EOD technician shall also ensure that all ammunition markings, (designation, hazard division, hazard compatibility code, previous serial numbers, UN symbols etc), that refer to the previous live condition of the item have been removed or obliterated.

The EOD technician shall then issue a FFE certificate for the item. This certificate shall contain the following information:

- a) unique serial number. (It is recommended that for ease of administration that this is the same as the serial number at clause 5);
- b) date;
- c) name of inspecting EOD technician;
- d) brief description of item;
- e) an FFE certification statement;

Note: It is recommended that the following statement is used in the local language:

*I certify that I have visually inspected and physically examined the item referred to on this FFE certificate and confirm that this item contains no explosive, pyrotechnic, lachrymatory, radioactive, chemical, biological or other toxic components or substances. I also certify that I have ensured that all previous ammunition markings have been removed or obliterated and that the item as been remarked as either DRILL or INERT. I am content that it is safe to use for drill, display or instructional purposes.*

**Signature of inspecting EOD technician.**

The SALW Control organisation shall maintain a register of all FFE certificates issued.

### **WARNING**

**If an individual is in any doubt as to the explosive status of an item of explosive ordnance, then it shall be treated as live, and EOD advice shall be immediately requested.**