



TAJIKISTAN MINE ACTION STANDARDS (TMAS)

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Area reduction (Reduction of the dangerous area)

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Contents

Contents	2	
Amendment Record	3	
Area reduction (Reduction of the dangerous area)	4	
1. Introduction	4	
2. Scope	4	
3. Area reduction during general survey	5	
3.1. Area reduction plan	5	
4. Area cancellation	6	
4.1 Report on the area cancellation activities	7	
4.2. Area cancellation procedures	7	
4.3. Area reduction operations on area cancellation activities	7	
5. Area reduction during technical survey	8	
5.1. Basis for the conducting of area reduction actions	8	
5.2. Technical survey operations for the conducting of area reduction activities	8	
5.3. Area reduction activities by the use of Mine Detection Dogs	9	
5.4. Area reduction activities by the use of mechanical demining machines	9	
5.5. Dividing large hazardous area	9	
5.6. Reporting	10	
6. Manual demining	10	
Annex A	Cancelled area report	12
Annex B	A diagram of the area cancellation procedures process	15

Area reduction (Reduction of the dangerous area)

Introduction

In 2004, during the review and assessment of results of the hazardous areas clearance operations there were identified that in 15 different programmes from 292 km² of the cleared lands totally in 2% of them were identified mines and unexploded ordnance. This factor shows that the minimum recourses allocated for mine action operations are directly spends for conducting of mine and unexploded ordnance clearance activities. Therefore, area reduction also must become an integral part of mine action process in Tajikistan. This action ensures that programmes capacities are used efficiently, effectively and safely.

Area reduction is the process through which the initial area indicated as contaminated in accordance with the approved rules and procedures is reduced to a smaller area. Area reduction may involve some limited clearance, such as the opening of access routes and the destruction of mines and unexploded ordnance which represent an immediate and unacceptable risk, but it will mainly be as a consequence of collecting more reliable information on the extent of the hazardous area. Area reduction also may be conducted during general survey and technical survey, and also during conducting of the direct clearance activities.

Scope

This chapter covers the requirements that should be applied for the conduct of the area reduction and area cancellation activities during mine action operations within Tajikistan.

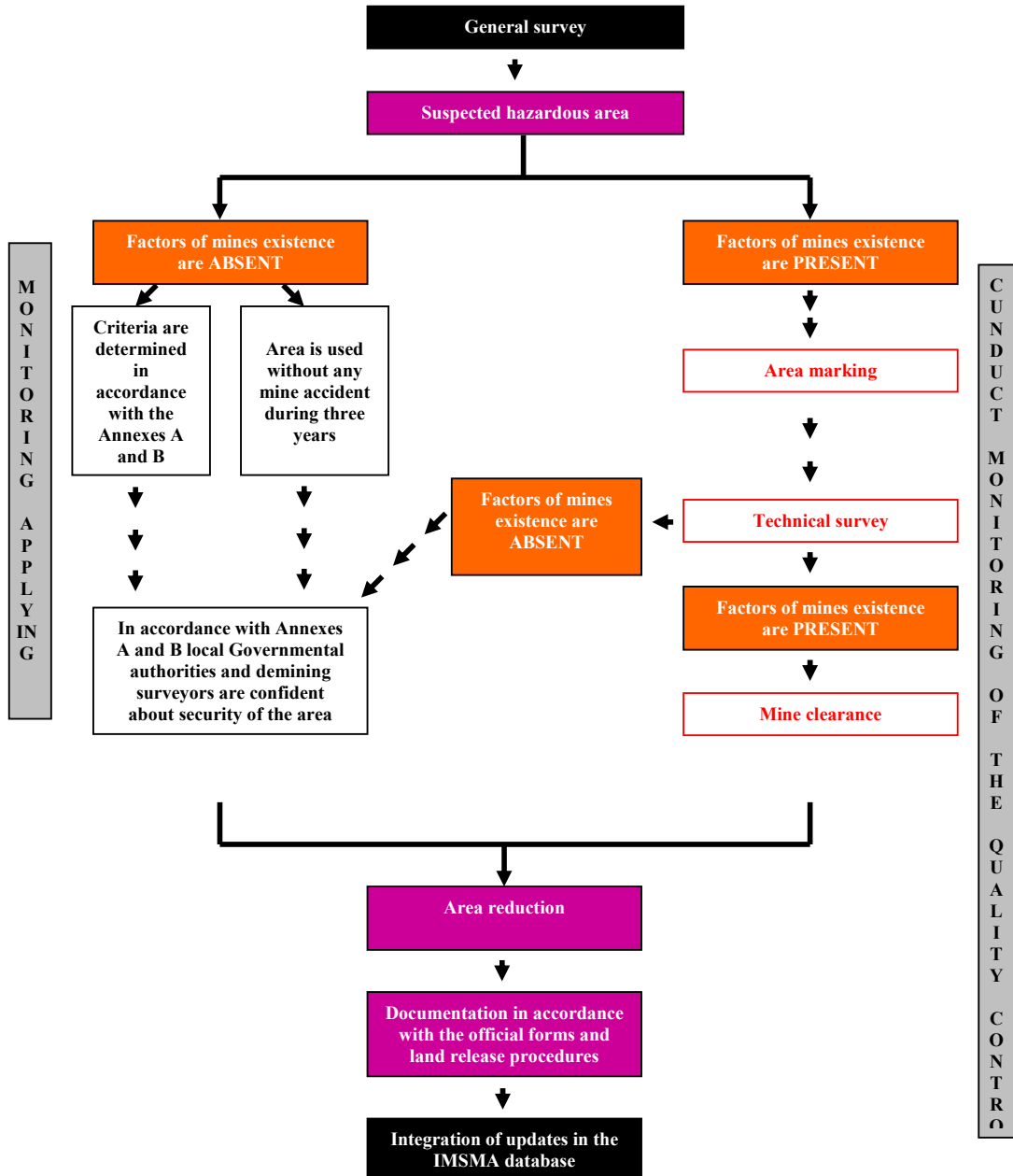
Area reduction during general survey (GS)

All mine action organisations have a general responsibility for the gathering of information on area reduction in Tajikistan. Mine Action organisations that are conduct general survey operations, should receive information about of any of the area reduction criteria indicated below and are to report the details to the TMAC

- a. Mine accidents that occurred during last five years in area that is be reduced.
- b. At least five representatives from different Mine Action Organisations involved in survey activities.
- c. Senior representatives of the local governmental authorities involved in adoption of decisions related to the area reduction activities.

- d. If there are no any type of signs, which indicates hazards of the area that is to be reduced.
- e. Use of the area that is to be reduced (lands for agriculture, grass mow, grazing, wood gathering and other rural activities) during last five years.

3.1. Area reduction Plan



Area cancellation

Area cancellation process allows to change the status of hazardous area and/or post-conflict area into safe area. This change in status will be the result of more accurate and reliable gathered information, for example from technical survey, and will normally only be authorised by the Tajikistan Mine Action Center, in accordance with TMAS. The documentation of all cancelled areas shall be retained together with a detailed explanation of the reasons for the change in the status of areas by Tajikistan Mine Action Centre.

The procedures of the cancellation of areas, which in Information Management System for Mine Action were recorded as hazardous and in accordance with the above mentioned criteria are subjects to cancellation are to be carried out by Mine Action Organisations as following:

- a. In areas Mine Action Organisations will again conduct general brief-completion survey (Level 1. Survey) and will fill out the first part of area cancellation report of the Area Reduction questionnaire (See Annex A of this chapter).
- b. After filling out Area Reduction questionnaire Mine Action Organisations will develop second part of report on the area cancellation activities (See Annex A of this chapter).
- c. Report on the area cancellation activities will be submitted to the Tajikistan Mine action Centre.

Final decision on the area cancellation activities will be made by Tajikistan Mine Action Centre.

4.1. Report on the area cancellation activities

Report on the area cancellation activities is to be developed by Mine Action Organisations and should contain the following clauses:

- a. Full name and signature of the area cancellation team Leader.
- b. Full name and signature of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre Quality Assurance Officer.
- c. Contact details and the name of at least of two owners of land, representatives of the local authorities and/or confirmed representative, to whom this area belong.

- d. Inspection of the forms by the Mine Action Organisation Officer and his signature.
- e. Manager of actions of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre gives his consent for conducting of area cancellation activity.
- f. Conducting of area cancellation activities will be approved by the Director of Tajikistan Mine Action Centre.

4.2. Area cancellation procedures

After completion of the first part of area cancellation activities Mine Action Organisations, land owners and/or representatives of the local authorities must invite representatives of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (for carrying out survey and assessment activities) to the area that is to be cancelled.

When development of the report on the area cancellation activities will come to its completely end, and all responsible persons will sign it, developed report will be submitted to the Director of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre for approval.

A diagram of the area cancellation procedure process is given in the Annex B of this chapter.

4.3. Area reduction operations on area cancellation activities

All information on the dangerous areas that were cancelled will be integrated in IMSMA database for being used in the future, when appropriate.

5. Area reduction during technical survey

Technical survey (TS) is a specific action during which detailed technical dates on the dangerous areas will gathered, accuracy and reliability of the information that were determined during general survey will be approved or disclaimed, and the area which was determined as area contaminated with mines will be reduced to a minimum. Technical survey may be carried out as a stand-alone activity or may be part of a combined survey-clearance operation.

In the case of disclaiming of the dates on the area danger, reduction of the area will be carried out.

Area reduction will be approved only by Tajikistan Mine Action Centre, in accordance with the Tajikistan Mine Action Standards.

5.1. Basis for the conducting of area reduction actions

Dates that serves as the basis for the conducting of area reduction activities during technical survey:

- a. There were not identified any type of mines or unexploded ordnance in the checked part of the area.
- b. There were not identified any indications of mines or unexploded ordnance existence (warning signs, mines/unexploded ordnance fragmentation, suspicious pits) in the checked part of the area.
- c. There were not recorded any accidents to people and livestock caused by detonation of mines or unexploded ordnance in the checked part of the area.
- d. Part of the area that is to be reduced 100% was completely checked by the survey team.
- e. Checked part of the minefield is accepted by the TMAC Quality Assurance Officer.

5.2. Technical survey operations for the conducting of area reduction activities

Technical survey teams are to conduct the following actions for carrying out the area reduction activities:

1. Establish the reference points and benchmarks for the site. Care is to be taken to ensure there are no hazardous areas located between the reference point and benchmark and between the benchmark and selected start point of the hazardous area being surveyed.
2. Mark the turning points and intermediate points on the boundary of the hazardous area and designate one of the turning points, normally one close to a bench mark, as the start point. Internal angles at turning points are to be less than 60 degrees.
3. For a mined area, clear a 2m wide boundary lane between the turning points around the perimeter of the area and mark it. The lane is to be cleared to 2.5m and marked with a 0.25m overlap each side.

4. For a battle area clearance (BAC) task, mark the perimeter of the hazardous area between the turning points.

5.3. Area reduction activities by the use of Mine Detection Dogs

Also all extent of the hazardous area in which was conducted technical survey by the use of mine detection dogs will be recorded as reduced extent of the hazardous area.

5.4. Area reduction activities by the use of mechanical demining machines

Areas that were technically surveyed by the use of mechanical demining machines are to be surveyed by the mine detection dogs again. Area will be recorded as reduced, as soon as mine detection dogs will 100% surveyed this area again.

5.5. Dividing large hazardous area

Where hazardous areas are large, technical survey teams are to divide them into parts for the purpose of clearance. As a guide, parts should not exceed 40,000m². Each part is to have its own boundary lane established and surveyed. Except for the division into parts, extensive hazardous areas are still to be treated as a single area, although the lots may be specifically identified by having the number «1», «2», «3» etc. attached to the unique task number.

All boundary lanes and surveyed boundary lanes that reduced actual extent of the hazardous area should be recorded as reduced extent of the hazardous area, not as cleared extent of the area, however technical survey teams are to be absolutely sure that the area reduced is in fact clear. If there are any doubts at all the suspect area is to remain inside the boundary of the hazardous area.

If during process of the technical survey there is not be found any mine and unexploded ordnance and/or any signs of their existence in the area, general extent of area will not be reduced, but the area 100% will be checked by the conducting of technical survey. In this case, use of the demining teams is also acceptable.

5.6. Reporting

The results of technical surveys are to be reported on IMSMA minefield and technical survey reports. All sections of these reports are to be completed. The locations of the demining worksite control areas and site markings are to be shown on sketch maps included with these reports. Copies of these reports are included with this chapter of TMAS.

Exploratory lanes into the minefield are to remain marked on the ground and are to be accurately recorded on the survey sketch map.

Reports on the technical survey are to be attached in work completion reports.

6. Manual demining

During direct manual demining operations there are not be reduced any part of the area in which were conducted general survey and technical survey activities. During direct manual demining operations 100% of identified extent of the area will be cleared.

7.

Annexes:

1. Cancelled area report.
2. A diagram of the area cancellation procedures process.
3. IMSMA general survey report.
4. IMSMA technical survey report.

Annex A
Cancelled area report

For recording of the hazardous area and/or minefield

Recorded number of the village in IMSMA _____

Name of the settlement/nearest site _____

Recorded number of the hazardous area in IMSMA _____

Date of visit _____

Coordinates: X/ Eastern/ Long _____

Y/ Northern/ Lat _____

Criteria

1. Following criteria are to be used to record hazardous areas and/or minefields as “cancelled area”.

№	QUESTIONS	YES	NO	NOTE
1	Was there carried out an accurate and final general survey of the hazardous area and the sites around it?			Community meetings are to be held for survey of the team.
2	Were the owners of land found and had been talked?			A talk is to be held with two person that know area well.
3	Did the owners of land give their agreements about assessment of area as free of mines/UXO?			Owners of the area and one person are to sign forms of cancelled area report both in English and in Tajik language.
4	Was the area regularly used?			
5	Were there recorded any changes or developments in the area after development of report on the hazardous area/minefield?			
6	Is there any signs indicating location of the			

	military objects or post-conflict area in radius of 200m?			
7	Were there recorded any accident of detonation of the mines/UXO in the area?			If YES – you should find out detailed information and if possible have a talk with mine victims.
8	Were there found any signs indicating mine/UXO existence during general survey of the hazardous area?			

2. If to all questions were given the answer «YES», in this case area may be considered as “IS TO BE CANCELLED”. Develop report on area cancellation and resume your action in accordance with the diagram of the area cancellation procedures process. If to questions 4 and 5 you gave the answer «NO», please explain the reasons and irrespective of reasons the area may be «CANCELLED».
3. If to questions 1,2,3,7 and 8 you gave the answer «NO», in this case cancellation of the area is not to be conducted and further technical survey/Level 2. is to be carried out.
4. If to questions 4, 5, or to question 6 you gave the answer «NO», in this case area may be considered as “IS TO BE CANCELLED”, but in note explain the reasons of given the answer «NO».

Note: “During carrying out Level 1. Survey/General survey there were not identified any hazard of mine/unexploded ordnance, therefore it is required that hazardous area/minefield previously recorded is to be cancelled and the status of area is to be integrated in IMSMA”.

“We are the undersigned persons agree, that the dangerous area on which has been submitted report is to be cancelled in accordance with the Tajikistan Mine Action Standards”

Leader of cancellation team

The TMAC Quality Assurance Officer

Name & surname:..... Name & surname:.....

Signature:..... Signature:.....

First local responsible person

Name & surname..... Position.....

Address..... Telephone.....

Signature..... Date.....

Second local responsible person

Name & surname..... Position.....

Address..... Telephone.....

Signature..... Date.....

Checked by:

Accepted by:

Demining organisation mine action officer

Head of demining organisation

Name & surname.....

Name & surname.....

Signature.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Date.....

Agreed by:

Approved by:

TMAC action Manager

TMAC Director

Name & surname.....

Name & surname.....

Signature.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Date.....

Annex B A diagram of the area cancellation procedures process

