

Foreword

The Sri Lankan National Mine Action Standards (SLNMAS) are essential to enable the Sri Lankan National Mine Action Centre (SLNMAC) staff to plan and assess the conduct of Mine Action (MA) tasks within the Country. The aim of this document is to provide humanitarian mine/UXO clearance and Mine Risk Education (MRE) organisations operating in Sri Lanka with a reference for the conduct of field operations. It has been produced using experiences gained locally, and it incorporates lessons and best practices learned in other theatres world-wide.

This document is not intended to replace or replicate Standing Operational Procedures (SOP) produced by organisations undertaking mine action activities in Sri Lanka, nor do they absolve any such organisations from the responsibility to produce their own SOP. Conversely, these SLNMAS are intended to be used as an aid in developing SOP, by detailing the minimum standards and accepted methods for conducting MA operations in theatre. They also provide the benchmark for comparing the SOP of organisations requesting accreditation to operate in Sri Lanka.

Variations in procedure and different methods of operation are to be expected amongst the different organisations in theatre. Therefore, the SLNMAS provide an example of practices accepted by the SLNMAC, and provide a basis for comparison during the accreditation process. However, organisations that do not conform to the minimum Standards outlined in this document will not be accredited to work in the Country.

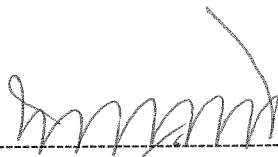
This document is designed to be a "living" document. The procedures and practices will be continually reviewed in order to ensure they remain relevant to the current mine situation, and keep up with advances in technology.

Where necessary this document meets and exceeds those minimum standards set out in the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and should be read, at all times, in conjunction with that publication. These SLNMAS take precedence over IMAS, however, if a National standard has not been developed, the extant IMAS will be considered as the guiding principle for that specific area of mine action.

The National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA) has a general responsibility for enabling and encouraging the effective management of mine action programmes, including the development and maintenance of National standards.

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising these standards will be conducted by a technical committee, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

SLNMAS will be reviewed at least every year to reflect developing mine action norms and practices, and to incorporate changes to international regulations and requirements.



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