CEN Workshop Agreements for Test and Evaluation of Humanitarian Demining Equipment

Franciska Borry

International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining

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The Comité Européen de Normalisation has organised workshops to aid the establishment of standard methodologies for demining. This article discusses the workshops and the agreements reached in those workshops. The author includes a list of contacts for additional information on demining equipment and methods.

Borry: CEN Workshop Agreements for Test and Evaluation of Humanitarian Demining Equipment

The Comité Européen de Normalisation de Standardisation et d’Energie (CEN) was established in 1963 to promote the development of harmonised European standards. This was achieved through the organisation of workshops, the setting up of working groups and the publication of European Standards (ENs), Technical Specifications (TSs) and Workshops (CEN WGs). The workshops are formed to provide a forum for interested parties to discuss and agree on common test and evaluation methodologies for humanitarian demining equipment.

The CEN Technical Committee on Demining has organised workshops to aid the establishment of standard methodologies for demining. The workshops are organised through the CEN Technical Committee on Demining (CEN TC 126) and are part of the CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) process. The CWA process is a systematic approach to standardisation that involves the active participation of interested parties.

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The aim of the CEN TC 126 workshops is to develop a standardised approach to testing and evaluation of humanitarian demining equipment. This involves the development of test methods, acceptance criteria, and performance evaluation that are consistent with the needs of users and the environment in which the equipment will be used.

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to expand future work to address a number of issues, including appropriate testing of ground-preparation devices and vegetation cutters, enhancement of operator/crew safety testing, enhancement of mobility testing and performance-degradation testing.

A series of mechanical equipment trials executed by ITEP during 2006 using the CWA 15044 test protocol has further produced some useful experiences which will be taken into account when the CWA 15044 is updated, probably in 2008.

Ongoing CWAs for test and evaluation of humanitarian-demining equipment, a CEN Workshop (CEN WS 26) on a Test Methodology for Personal Protective Equipment for use in humanitarian mine action kicked off in June 2006.

The Standardiseringen i Sverige (SIS) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining are co-chairing this CEN Workshop. The aim is to establish CEN Working Groups, each tasked with drafting different parts of the document, were established at the kick-off meeting. The first technical meeting was held 3 May 2007.11

Points of Contact

The contracts listed below are available to provide advice on the planning and conduct of an evaluation according to the described CEN Workshop Agreements. Please do not hesitate to contact them when considering a trial of demining equipment or demining methods.

* ITEP Secretariat: secretariata@itep.ws
  * ITEP Working Group on Test and Evaluation of Mechanical Assistance Clearance Equipment: Geoff Coley, geoff.coley@drdc-rddc.gc.ca, or Chris Wiekert, Chris.Wiekert@drdc-rddc.gc.ca
  * ITEP Working Group on Test and Evaluation of Dual (Multi) Sensors: David Lewis, dwlewis@qinetiq.com
  * GICHD: Erik Tollefsen, e.tollefsen@un.org
  * United Nations Mine Action Service: Noël Mulliner, mulliner@un.org

Franciska Barry has been working for the Secretariat of the International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining since June 2005. She provides advice, assistance and coordination services to the ITEP Executive Committee. She is further responsible for the maintenance of all ITEP information databases and serves as the point of contact for any communication with ITEP.

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The International Mine Action Standards are guidelines set by the United Nations to implement mine-action programs safely and effectively. The author discusses the purpose and processes of the IMAS as well as provides various references for those interested in learning more about the IMAS.

by Faiz M. Pakian | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining |