Bans and constraints
Warning

The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) are subject to regular review and revision. This document is current with effect from the date shown on the cover page. To verify its status, users should consult the UN SaferGuard IATG project through the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) website at:


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Foreword

Ageing, unstable and excess ammunition stockpiles pose the dual hazards of illicit proliferation and accidental explosion, which have caused destabilization and humanitarian disaster in all regions of the world.

Crucial for adequate stockpile management is the identification of surpluses – that is, the portion of weapons and ammunition that does not constitute an operational need. When surpluses are not recognized, the entirety of the stockpile may continue to be seen as of operational value. Although not used, weapons and ammunition surpluses thus continue to fill warehouses and can thus pose a significant risk to safety and security.

Defective stockpile management has been assessed as the norm rather than the exception in many countries. Often it is not only surplus stocks that should be the focus of attention, but the lack of appropriate policy for stockpile management. Governments remain unaware of surpluses; their national stockpiles remain a risk to public safety; and diversion from warehouses feed into crime and armed violence.

In 2011, the United Nations developed the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) to ensure that the United Nations as a whole consistently delivers high-quality advice and support in ammunition management. Many stakeholders, including international organizations, non-governmental entities and national authorities, use these guidelines.

The IATG, along with other conventional ammunition issues, are managed through the United Nations SaferGuard programme.

Taking into account the diversity in capacity of States, three levels of ascending comprehensiveness are offered in the IATG, referred to as “risk-reduction process levels” (RRPLs). These are indicated within each IATG as either LEVEL 1 (basic), LEVEL 2 (intermediate) or LEVEL 3 (advanced).

The aim of implementing partners should be to maintain stockpile management processes at RRPL 1 as a minimum. This will often reduce risk significantly. Ongoing and gradual improvements could then be made to the stockpile management infrastructure and processes as staff development improves and further resources become available. These additional actions would equate to RRPLs 2 and 3.

The RRPLs are determined by calculating a weighted score of questions about a particular ammunition stockpile. A checklist is available at: https://www.un.org/disarmament/un-saferguard/risk-reduction-process-levels/.

The IATG are reviewed on a regular basis to reflect developing ammunition stockpile management norms and practices, and to incorporate changes due to changing international regulations and requirements. The IATG are also available in multiple languages.

The latest version of each guideline, together with practical IATG implementation support tools, can be found at https://www.un.org/disarmament/un-saferguard/.
Introduction

Bans and constraints on the use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal of conventional ammunition are a fundamental component of a safe, effective and efficient ammunition management system. They are primarily issued by the conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation to control the issue and use of explosives and ammunition to make sure that the users receive ammunition that is: 1) safe to use; and 2) will perform within the agreed ballistic and performance envelopes. Constraints on the use of ammunition may also be used to protect ammunition stock levels during shortages of certain types of ammunition.

It is essential for the safety and morale of users that they receive ammunition that they have confidence in; a system of ammunition bans and constraints, instigated by the conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation, ensures this.
Bans and constraints

1 Scope

This IATG introduces and explains the concept and use of bans and constraints on the use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal of ammunition as part of a safe, effective and efficient conventional ammunition management system.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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

A further list of informative references is given at Annex B in the form of a bibliography which lists additional documents that contain other useful information on bans and constraints when applied to conventional ammunition.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this guide the following terms and definitions, as well as the more comprehensive list given in IATG 01.40:2015(E) Terms, definitions and abbreviations, shall apply.

The term ‘ban’ refers to a moratorium placed on the issue and use of ammunition, usually pending technical investigation.

The term ‘constraint’ refers to the imposition of a limitation or restriction in the use, transportation, carriage, issue, storage or inspection of a munition.

In all modules of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, the words 'shall', 'should', 'may' and 'can' are used to express provisions in accordance with their usage in ISO standards.

a) ‘shall’ indicates a requirement: It is used to indicate requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the document and from which no deviation is permitted.

b) ‘should’ indicates a recommendation: It is used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form, 'should not') a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited.

c) ‘may’ indicates permission: It is used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.

d) ‘can’ indicates possibility and capability: It is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or casual.

4 Aim of a bans and constraints system

The aim of a formal system of bans and constraints, instigated by a conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation, should be to ensure:

a) the safety of personnel during the use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal of conventional ammunition;
b) the optimum use of the conventional ammunition stockpile, which is an expensive national asset; and

c) to control the issue and use of specific or generic conventional ammunition during times of shortages.

5 Content of a ban or constraint

Any ban or constraint on the use of specific or generic ammunition should contain the following information, which shall be disseminated to users as soon as possible:

a) the type and calibre of ammunition;

b) the specific lot, batch and/or serial number of the ammunition to which the ban or constraint applies; and

c) full details of the ban or constraint, which may require:
   i) a total cessation of use;
   
   ii) a limitation which is necessary during use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal; or
   
   iii) a limitation in use during training.

6 Bans (LEVEL 2)

6.1 Rationale for bans

A ban on the use of specific conventional ammunition, (which may be at generic type, lot, batch and/or serial number level), should be imposed to prevent the issue or use of conventional ammunition under the following circumstances:

a) when it is suspected of being the cause of an ammunition accident, irrespective of whether death or injury has been caused;

b) when there have been excessive performance failures;

c) when a defect, which could compromise safety, has been discovered; and

d) when the ammunition is to be withdrawn at the end of its serviceable life.

6.2 Dissemination of bans

The organisation responsible for the overall conventional ammunition management system should ensure that an appropriate system is in place that can rapidly alert users to the imposition of an ammunition ban.

6.3 Action on notification of a ban

Users should take the following action when they receive notice of an ammunition ban from the conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation:

a) mark the ammunition packaging or container with the following information:
   
   i) ‘NOT FOR ISSUE OR USE’;
   
   ii) the ban serial number; and
any special instructions received with the ban.

b) enter the details of the ban in the user's ammunition account; and

c) arrange for the ammunition to be transported to the designated ammunition demilitarization or destruction organisation.  

7 Constraints (LEVEL 2)

7.1 Rationale for constraints

Constraints, (which may be at generic type, lot, batch and/or serial number level), are the imposition of a limitation or restriction in the use, transportation, carriage, issue, storage or inspection of munitions. Constraints should be used as a tool for the ammunition management system. They normally remain in force for the life of ammunition, while a ban can be a short-term measure.

Details of the constraints shall be printed on the ammunition issue vouchers, and a note shall be made on the ammunition account sheet of any constraints.

Constraints on the use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal of ammunition may include:

a) storage temperatures to be adhered to;

b) special handling requirements;

c) a decision that ammunition is for training use only; or

d) a change of shelf life parameters.

7.2 Dissemination of constraints

The organisation responsible for the overall conventional ammunition management system should ensure that an appropriate system is in place that can rapidly alert users to the imposition of an ammunition constraint.

7.3 Action on notification of a constraint

Users should take the following action when they receive notice of a constraint on ammunition use, storage, handling, transportation or disposal from the conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation:

a) mark the ammunition packaging or container with the following information:
   i) the constraint serial number; and
   ii) details of the constraint.

b) enter the details of the constraint in the user's ammunition account.

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1 This responsibility may lie with the conventional ammunition stockpile management organisation.
Annex A
(normative)
References

The following normative documents contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of the guide. 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 guide 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 maintain registers of currently valid ISO or EN:


The latest version/edition of these references should be used. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA) holds copies of all references used in this guide. A register of the latest version/edition of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines is maintained by UN ODA, and can be read on the IATG website: www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/. National authorities, employers and other interested bodies and organisations should obtain copies before commencing conventional ammunition stockpile management programmes.

2 Where copyright permits.
Annex B
(informative)

References

The following informative documents contain provisions, which should also be consulted to provide further background information to the contents of this guide:


The latest version/edition of these references should be used. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA) holds copies of all references used in this guide. A register of the latest version/edition of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines is maintained by UN ODA, and can be read on the IATG website: [www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/). National authorities, employers and other interested bodies and organisations should obtain copies before commencing conventional ammunition stockpile management programmes.

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3 Where copyright permits.
Amendment record

Management of IATG amendments

The IATG guidelines are subject to formal review on a five-yearly basis, however this does not preclude amendments being made within these five-year periods for reasons of operational safety and efficiency or for editorial purposes.

As amendments are made to this IATG they will be given a number, and the date and general details of the amendment shown in the table below. The amendment will also be shown on the cover page of the IATG by the inclusion under the edition date of the phrase ‘incorporating amendment number(s) 1 etc.’

As the formal reviews of each IATG are completed new editions may be issued. Amendments up to the date of the new edition will be incorporated into the new edition and the amendment record table cleared. Recording of amendments will then start again until a further review is carried out.

The most recently amended, and thus extant, IATG will be the versions that are posted on the UN SaferGuard IATG website at www.un.org/disarmament/un-saferguard/.

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<td>01 Feb 15</td>
<td>Release of Edition 2 of IATG.</td>
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