MSIAC Munitions Safety Information Analysis Center
Supporting Member Nations in the Enhancement of their Munitions Life Cycle Safety

Bulletin

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to our Fresh New Look! We hope you like it. Comments are always appreciated.

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MSIAC SAFETY ASSESSMENT SOFTWARE (SASO) NOW AVAILABLE FOR USE ONLINE

New!

A new online version of Safety Assessment Software (SASO) is available for member nations. This tool has been designed to help those who work with munitions safety standards by identifying relevant national and international standards and giving access to the latest editions.

Want to learn more...?

INTERESTING FEEDBACK FROM THE USE OF THE SELF-AUDIT PROCEDURE

MSIAC has developed a self-audit procedure for IM/HC testing facilities (L-150 document). This procedure was developed to help test centres to check if they perform the tests according to the STANAGs. Such an approach helps harmonize test conduct and reporting thereby promoting transferability of test results and potentially reducing the testing cost burden.

We recently received the self audit report from Bofors Test Center. Bofors Test Center is an independent testing facility owned by Saab Dynamics, BAE Systems and Eurenco and located in Karlskoga, Sweden. When it comes to IM and HC tests, Bofors Test Center perform all tests stated in STANAG 4439 and most types of HC tests. In addition they also provide their customers assistance in establishing test programmes as well as with assessment of results and technical reports. More about BTC capabilities is described in their self-audit report.

Jon Toreheim, Marketing and Sales Manager, who was managing the audit within Bofors Test Center, has kindly accepted to share some feedback on their experience.

Jon, why was it decided to perform the MSIAC self-audit procedure?

When the MSIAC self-audit procedure first was presented to us we

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immediately saw several benefits for us as an independent test organization by performing the audit. It was also very interesting to be one of the first organizations on track to work with this issue and during this work we felt a kind of a pioneer spirit. Since we work entirely in the field of IM testing and always work hard to meet our customer's present and future requirements, it was an easy decision to make.

Could you tell us how you performed the audit (who was involved, procedure,…)?

We started the whole thing by forming a small project team which consisted of three persons i.e. me, Mr. Harald Riddersand, Manager, Environment and Quality and Mr. Thomas Gustavsson, Manager, Measurement and Photo Department. In this team we shared the different tasks between us and each one of us formed a subgroup in order to give proper answers to all questions in the questionnaires. Mr. Riddersand worked by himself while I was working together with Mr. Rickard Lindström, Marketing Director, and Mr. Kjell Sånebo, Test Officer. Mr. Gustavsson worked together with Mr. Dan Konradsson, Test Engineer. In total six persons were involved in the work.

When we got all answers in the subgroups we sat down in the project team and answered the questions in each questionnaire together. During this work we had a lot of contact with MSIAC who helped us with questions we had about different issues in the questionnaires. After we completed all four questionnaires we started to write the final report.

Could you give a short description on the contents of your report?

Basically we have followed the guidelines from MSIAC and our report consists of hard facts about our test organization together with general information such as descriptions of the test facilities, the instrumentation we use and about our staff's knowledge and expertise. Of course the main part of the report is the four completed questionnaires. In the end we have also attached a general technical report of each of the six IM tests stated in STANAG 4439.
These reports describe tests of a fictitious product and the idea is to show our customers how we work and what they can expect to get if they order assessment and technical reporting together with testing. We have also created a shortened version which does not contain the questionnaires and therefore is unclassified.

How much time did you spend to complete the audit?

It actually took quite a long time. When we first started this project in December 2010 we aimed to be able to work through the self-audit procedure and deliver a final report to MSIAC before July 2011.
However, we worked until December 2012 when finally our self-audit report was sent to MSIAC to be published on MSIAC secure website. The main reason why it took so long was that during this period we were very busy with testing, which of course has a higher priority as it is our core business. In terms of man hours needed we had 25 meetings in total of one to three hours each in the project team and in the subgroups.
The final report, including the general technical reports, took approximately 80 hours to write, review and authorize.

What lessons did you learn from the audit?

We learned a lot about ourselves as an IM testing organization and we gained very good knowledge about our resources for IM testing. Resources like test site infrastructure, test equipment, measurement equipment, staff knowledge, quality systems and environmental issues.
Obviously we knew most of this before we started the audit but all these separate data had never before been summarized in one document which we now see is extremely useful. We also learned that performing this audit is a very hard and time consuming work if your intention is to give serious answers to all questions in the questionnaires, there are a lot of them…, and deliver a final report of high quality.

What do you think are the primary benefits (quality, marketing,…) for your organization?

There are so many benefits that it is rather difficult to cover them all but among the primary ones are that we now are able to provide our customers a document that in an incomparably detailed way describes exactly what we can do when it comes to IM testing. It also gives our customers a general description about our company and the attached general technical report has shown to be much appreciated. We hope that this document will show our customers our dedication and high level of professionalism when we are performing all kinds of tests – not only IM tests. Other benefits are that we can use this document when we educate our own personnel in IM testing and that people within our organization who do not regularly work with IM can use it as a reference document when they want to know more about our resources. During the work on this project we also automatically got an analysis of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which we have found

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very useful.

Do you have any other comments?

I would like to take the chance to really thank MSIAC for establishing this great procedure and for your fantastic support when we worked on this project. Finally I would like to advice all who are considering performing IM tests, to ask for the test organization's MSIAC L-150 self-audit procedure report in advance. This will give you an impression not only of the resources of the particular test organization but also of the way they work and their level of seriousness. As a former customer ordering IM testing I know how important this is and to get this report is the first thing I would do before any eventual discussions regarding requests for quotations and so on.

Bofors Test Center, as other test facilities did, has agreed to make their report available on the MSIAC secure web environment:
https://www.msiac.nato.int/weblink/0/fol/10748/Row1.aspx

Alternatively, it could be provided by Bofors Test Center directly. To date, four facilities have already completed the audit, and others intend to do so.
We would like to again thank Bofors Test Center for the time they spent to perform the audit and Jon for providing feedback from his company. We hope this will encourage other facilities to follow the same way.

INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY PRESS REVIEW

If you have information you consider of relevance to this section , please do not hesitate to contact MSIAC at info@msiac.nato.int

In recognition that the "**Procurements**" section of our newsletter addresses more than only weapon procurements awarded by nations to industry, this section will be renamed "**Industry and Technology**". This section of the newsletter will look to present a quick synopsis of munition procurements as well as technology advancements affecting munition safety. We hope this will be of greater value and interest to our readers.

You can find all Articles on Industry &Technology via this hyperlink.

In this section on Industry and Technology we highlight the changing face of weapons, and weapons safety, as **the US Navy Unveils Its First Laser Gun**.

In fiscal year 2014, the Navy will put a solid-state laser gun aboard USS Ponce in the Persian Gulf. The tests run with this weapon will help develop a prototype system that can be tailored to many surface combatant classes.

We've already successfully test-fired on unmanned aircraft and small boats. Additional target sets will follow.

Watch a demonstration of the high-energy laser aboard a moving surface combatant ship and against remotely piloted aircraft:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=OmoldX1wKYQ

The same weapon that can be used to identify and then issue a non-lethal warning to an approaching unmanned air vehicle can then set a drone ablaze and send it crashing to the ground. With lasers, our aim becomes more precise, and we can engage at the speed of light.

And the best part of this story? It costs less than $1 to take a shot with a laser, and it doesn't require our Sailors to load ships up with hazardous materials such as propellants and explosives.
You need two things to operate a laser: electricity and cooling. We can get the electricity from the ship's power system and use available chilled water to cool it. With ample supply of both, we have a virtual bottomless magazine.

It's cheap, it's safe, it's the future . . . and the future is here.

The Office of Naval Research contributed to this cutting-edge technology, with research partners at Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Air Systems Command, the Secretary of Defense's High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, among others.

http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2013/04/10/solid-state-laser-gun-to-be-placed-aboard-uss-ponce/

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TRAINING TO NATO STANDARDS!

MSIAC once again orchestrated a training session on the NATO Ammunition Storage Standards AASTP-1 and AASTP-5.

The training was conducted on 18-22 February 2013 in Versailles, France for the French Military Forces.
The positive feedback received on the course presented in Brussels, Belgium last September prompted France to host the course and train their forces. Additional seating was available, therefore MSIAC sent invitations to all MSIAC Member Nations interested to attend the course.

Twenty-one students participated in the training, 14 from France, two from the Netherlands, one from Italy, one from Spain, one from Finland and one from the United Kingdom.

The training was presented on MSIAC's behalf by a former Belgian MOD Ammunition Technical Officer, Mr. Johann DeRoos. The presentations thoroughly covered all aspects of the standards, but also included practical exercises on Hazard Class/Division, Quantity Distance and Barricades.

A lengthy final exercise was also given on the last day of the course. All students succeeded and were awarded a signed certificate from MSIAC and a Command Coin was given to each individual student by GEN (GBR) Stephane Ovaere.

The course slide presentations, exercises and instructor notes are posted on the MSIAC website for downloading by Member Nations.

Participants of the AASTP-1 Training in Versailles.

You can find the ***LATEST PATENT*** *(Q1-2013) on our MSIAC Website! Click this* ***hyperlink*** *to access the Patent Section!*

MS AWARDS UPDATE !!!!
Check out the Website for more information on our MS Awards' Procedures and Nominations: just click this ***hyperlink****.*

You can access all ***REPORTED ACCIDENTS*** *via this* **hyperlink!**
(Re-printed on our Website with the permission of ility engineering)

Over the next months, our Website will be updated to enhance the browsing experience:
...NEW LOOK...
...MORE PRACTICAL...
... MORE INFORMATIVE...
...EASILY ACCESSIBLE ...

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

(Available on the MSIAC secure web environment https://www.msiac.nato.int/weblink/0/fol/10748/Row1.aspx/ or on request at info@msiac.nato.int)

LIMITED PUBLICATIONS

L-179 **Insensitive Munition and Hazard Classification Testing Workshop Proposal, by Dr Michael W. Sharp, April 2013**

For more ***PUBLICATIONS****, go to the Technical Reports' on our website via this* **Hyperlink!**