

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**REPORTING FORMS  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE  
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING  
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V**

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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CROMAC - CTRO Web site: [www.ctro.hr](http://www.ctro.hr)

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2025

(dd/mm/yyyy)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I

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**FORM A:** Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:**

Through 65 conceptual clearance projects, ERW threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 34,7 km<sup>2</sup> while additional 8,5 km<sup>2</sup> was excluded through Technical and Non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted with the total decrease of the hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of 43,2 km<sup>2</sup> (excluding the 8.520.168 m<sup>2</sup> land released by the MoD operational staff and CROMAC/CPD staff performing clearance and technical survey activities during 2024). Hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2024 totalled 49,3 km<sup>2</sup>.(excluding the MoD areas of additional 10,1 km<sup>2</sup>)

In 2024 the largest share in demined areas were the areas planned for different economic activities like forest areas and agricultural land which the local and regional governments have stated as their priority, crucial for the Nature 2000 protection sites, forest preservation and fire protection as well as revitalization of agricultural production and other activities where demining is a precondition. This means that at the end of 2024, 98.5% of the hazardous areas were categorized as forest areas and 1.4 % as agricultural areas. All of this clearly displays the efforts of the Republic of Croatia to resolve HA on agricultural soil, after which and in even parallelly, forest, nature 2000 and protected areas will be prioritized. The remaining forest areas hinder not only nature protection activities and fire protection but also serious aspects of economic development as well.

Table 2: Number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024

| Year | Anti-personnel Mines | Anti-vehicle Mines | UXO            |
|------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | 1.102 (+ 295 MoD)    | 4 (+18 MoD)        | 377 (+643 MoD) |

**Any other relevant information:**

During the implementation of quality control and quality assurance measures, CROMAC quality control supervisors and QC/QA staff, have found that in 4 mine clearance operations/projects polygons, during QA activities in progress of clearance tasks, the performed activities have not met the prescribed quality requirements so the repetition of the clearance activities in an area of 69.800 m<sup>2</sup> has been ordered. In total, 120 Final QC procedures have been finalized in 2024 examining the area of 2.100.844 m<sup>2</sup> in total.

Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of 42 demining companies that were authorized by Croatian Ministry of Interior to perform demining activities in 2024. All the employees that work in mine clearance are wearing PPE or protective equipment that consists of flak jacket with apron protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. Following equipment is in usage for humanitarian demining activities: metal detectors, demining machines of all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and mine detection dogs. In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine detection dogs. Aside from the Act on Mine Action, there are several regulatory bylaws which prescribe the entire methodology of demining activities. In addition, frequent use of demining machines puts Croatia among the leading states with mechanical mine clearance, but the usage of MDDs is also present and widely used.

Certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas and radar stations are still partially contaminated by ERW. The MoD Pioneer company of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. During 2024 an area of 7.770.168 m<sup>2</sup> under the authority of the MoD (military areas) was cleared which resulted with 295 AP mines and 18 AT mines found and destroyed along with 643 UXOs eliminated as well.

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In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2024, as a part of their regular activities, counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign “Less arms, less tragedies” (where the citizens are being educated as a part of EORE activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 138 AP and 21 AV landmines, along with different 3.628 pieces of UXO's. This includes cluster bomblets, Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (359 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm – 411.847 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

On June 05, 2009 The Croatian National Parliament passed a Law on Ratification of the Convention on cluster munitions. Republic of Croatia formally deposited its ratification with the UN on 17 August 2009. The CCM convention entered into force on 1 August, 2010. The Republic of Croatia declared that as at 1 August 2020 it cleared and destroyed all known cluster munitions contaminated areas, in accordance with article 4.1. of the Convention. The cluster munition contaminated area was originally determined in 8 Counties and 28 towns of the Republic of Croatia.

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**FORM B:** Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:**

At the end of 2024, 16 towns and municipalities in 3 out of 21 counties were affected by mine problem. Total mine hazardous area of the Republic of Croatia at the end of the 2024 amounted to 49.3 km<sup>2</sup> (non military areas, additional 10 km<sup>2</sup> are military controlled contaminated areas)

On December 31, 2024 the total hazardous area was marked with 2.610 mine warning signs that are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) which is available on the web page of the MIS and also shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested maps on the HA situation.

Annual Mine Action Plan is based on priorities and requests of Counties that are compliant to their development programs, programs of reconstruction and economic development, needs and requests of public companies and other demining beneficiaries, defined mine suspected areas and financial means secured. The Plan is approved by Croatian Government and adopted by the Croatian Parliament.

**Any other relevant information:**

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament had officially adopted the National Mine Action Programme as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until 2026.

On May 26, 2023 the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) to the APMBC, Republic of Croatia was officially approved of the extension deadline regarding the Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention (previously set at March, 2019). The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Croatia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026. In granting the request, the Meeting acknowledged that Croatia had declared that it would finalise all operations and verification by 31 December 2025 and hence fulfil its Article 5 obligations in line with the aspiration of the States Parties. In accordance, Republic of Croatia had presented to states parties a Revised work plan documents in 2020, 2022 and 2024 which displayed all the efforts made along with the projections that are currently in line with the 2nd request milestones and 2026 goal.

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**FORM C:** Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:**

Different Explosive Ordnance Risk Education activities, continuous marking of the hazardous areas, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using CROMAC web portal had a positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition, during 2019 Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) has further developed a web application named MINE.info which can be downloaded onto smartphones (both android and iOS based) and accessed for free. The application includes information on the location of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas on the Croatian territory and can track the user's distance to the closest contaminated area. If a user happens to be in a mined area, the relevant police department can be notified immediately by selecting the "SOS Call" option, which will automatically transmit the geo-data on the location of the caller to the police. The application also contains the option to report suspected explosive devices to the police by uploading photos and a short description of the encountered device. Further, the app contains a list of the most common ERW to be found in Croatia. For each item, there is a photo, the name and a brief narrative of the objects, as well as the most common locations where particular explosive remnants could be encountered.

In 2024, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational centre of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2024, a total of 121 EORE were held in 8 Counties. The EORE activities covered a total of about 11,252 people, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with the city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations.

Central ceremony for the April 4th, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in the usual capacity gathering major public media with organized press conference by the Ministry of the Interior, along with the established promotion and awareness messages sent to various offline and online media channels highlighting the importance of mine risk and awareness. The Ministry of the Interior marked April 4th – presenting the created promotional film concerning the Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia - from Challenges to Opportunities which showed the path of demining process in the Republic of Croatia from 1996 to the 2024, after which the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Regional Development and European Union Funds addressed the attendees.

**Any other relevant information:**

During 2024, in the Republic of Croatia, there were no mine accidents or incidents whatsoever.

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**FORM D:** Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Every humanitarian mission or organization that is coming to Croatia with goal to help or to get involved in mine action in Croatia can get all relevant information at the Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) which will provide information about ERW, Hazardous Areas, priorities and all other topics that could be point of interest of those organizations. That is one of the CROMAC's sector main tasks as being a part of the Civil Protection Directorate, a central civil protection institution that acts as a Directorate inside the Ministry of the Interior and NMAA.

Among other activities, the Civil Protection Directorate tasks regarding the Mine Action are as follows:

- Collecting and processing data about the SHA and database management,
- Planning of demining operations and providing information towards organizing public tenders for awarding demining operations,
- SHA marking,
- Drafting of demining and technical survey projects,
- Quality assurance and quality control over demining operations,
- preparation of demining certificates,
- Co-ordination of MRE activities,
- International cooperation.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

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**FORM E:** Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:**

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC (CROMAC-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, CROMAC-CTRO LLC took over the activities and projects focused on certification and testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technologies in Mine Action.

- Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan Humanitarian Mine Action in the context of providing donation of eight Mine Detection Dogs along with the additional support activities including the education of four dog handlers which visited Croatia and completed training in 2024.
- In May 2024, FindMine gmbH carried out development and validation tests of their UAV-based ground penetrating synthetic aperture radar (GPSAR) at the CROMAC-CTRO ltd test site in Benkovac. They tested the possibility of detecting real disarmed mines, both AP and AT, and UXOs.

Supporting the Mine Action efforts of Ukraine

- During 2024, the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the NGO "Croatia Helps", held several EORE education sessions for children from Ukraine who were visiting the Republic of Croatia as a war relief Programme.
- Two expert workshops on the topic "Train the Trainers - Implementation of EORE for the Civilian Population" were also held for the employees of the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine.
- Cooperation was also established through participation of the Republic of Croatia in the Humanitarian Demining Coalition for Ukraine as well as through the participation of representative of the Ministry of the Interior in the Advisory Board of the Centre for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine.
- At the International Conference on Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine in Lausanne, Swiss Confederation, a representative of the Ministry of Interior participated as a panellist and as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine, where the institutional and systematic approach of the Republic of Croatia to new technologies and innovative solutions were presented.
- During the 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors & UN Advisers in Geneva, CROMAC – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CTRO) ltd and Ukrainian Center for Improvement of Mine Action and Environmental (CIMAES) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a cooperative framework for the exchange of knowledge, sharing of experiences, and fostering innovations within the humanitarian demining sector.
- As part of the project titled "Comprehensive Support to the National Mine Action Sector of Ukraine, Component 2: Support to Strengthen Humanitarian Mine Action in Ukraine," a series of workshops were organized in Kyiv during 2024. This project is implemented by the CROMAC-CTRO ltd in collaboration with the Civil Protection Directorate and financed within the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments – FPI of the EC with a goal of enhancing the capacity of state humanitarian mine action operators in Ukraine by providing strategic and technical guidance on the integrated management of mine action activities.

**Any other relevant information:**

N/A

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**FORM F:** Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:**

- Participation of the Croatian delegation at the Regional Conference on Advancing Victim Assistance Implementation and Cooperation held in Ljubljana, Slovenia presenting the activities of the mine action system of the Republic of Croatia with an emphasis on highlighting all the activities carried out within the project "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" financed by the Swiss Croatian Cooperation Programme.
- Participation of the Croatian delegation at the The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World - the Fifth Review Conference (5RC) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).
- The 20th International Symposium "Mine Action 2024" was held in April 2024, co-organized by the Ministry of Interior and the Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd, and under the auspices of the Croatian Parliament. The 20th International Symposium "Mine Action 2024" was an event for exchanging experiences, considering solutions to technical and management problems and gaining insight into the latest technologies in the field of humanitarian mine action, and was attended by more than 220 participants from 35 countries worldwide.
- A representative of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior participated during May 2024 at the Security Cooperation Forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and presented the achievements and experiences of the Republic of Croatia in humanitarian mine action.
- During March 2024, At the meeting of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Paris, France, the mine action system of the Republic of Croatia was presented. The presented information, along with the accompanying discussion, was subsequently integrated into the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the use of explosive weapons, as one of the significant factors influencing population displacement.

In addition, Civil Protection Directorate officials have continuously during 2024 provided thorough support and transparent information towards the international partners and organizations regarding the APMBC, CCM and CCW Conventions as well as Landmine Monitor, OSCE, Mine Action review (NPA), EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

**Any other relevant information:**

n/a

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**FORM F(a):** Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):**

The Republic of Croatia has a highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enabled the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This new Law provided the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

County institutes for emergency health care are available in all 21 counties which in turn provide even level of assistance in case of urgency. The time of response of emergency health teams (ambulances) in case of urgency (such as mine incident) has been improved and is now up to 10 min in urban areas and up to 20 min in rural areas (in 80% of situations). In cases of severe injuries or difficult medical conditions of any kind that require urgent transport of patient to a more equipped medical facility, helicopters of the Croatian Armed Forces are available and usually deployed. This in turn dramatically increases the level of survivability in such cases. Psychosocial interdisciplinary centres are available in all 21 counties with four being regional centres for psychological services that provide psychotherapeutic services, with the main centre in the capital of Zagreb. Finally, House of Croatian Veterans is accommodation / rehabilitation institution that can permanently or temporarily reside Homeland War veterans, returnees from the peacekeeping missions, injured deminers and members of their families, civilian war victims, as well as other persons in need (including mine/UXO victims and survivors), depending on their health status and socio-economic situation.

**Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:**

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. One of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that served in future project activities / VA activities. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published, which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. Further project activities continued in 2022 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counselling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings. During 2023 an activity of small-scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed in increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried. Financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF

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200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurships for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families (indirect victims). In 2024, an additional demining project was completed from leftover funds resulting with 81.386 m2 of released land along with 30 AP mines and 1 UXO found and destroyed. This was the last activity of this important project, so all activities have been finalized in mid-2024.

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**FORM G:** Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:**

Correspondingly to EORE activities performed throughout the 2024, the Republic of Croatia has, as previously described, performed the following measures in affected territories, to reduce the risks posed by explosive remnants of war:

- survey and assess the threat posed by explosive remnants of war;
- assess and prioritize needs and practicability in terms of marking and clearance, removal or destruction;
- mark and clear, remove or destroy explosive remnants of war;
- take steps to mobilize resources to carry out these activities.

**Any other relevant information:**

N/A

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**FORM H:** Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

a.) Munitions manufacturing management

Production of all types of arms and military equipment in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the law on the Production, Overhaul and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, adopted on 25 March 2002 (Official Gazette 33/2002). The law regulates safety and protection of methods of producing and refitting arms and military equipments.

b.) Munitions management

In order to ensure the best possible long-term reliability of explosive ordnance, Republic Croatia applies best practices and operating procedures with respect to its storage, transport, field storage and handling in accordance with the following:

Explosive ordnance is stored in 26 secured facilities that are well-guarded and protected against fires and thunders.

Explosive ordnance is stored and sorted in accordance with its condition. Out of date and faulty explosive ordnance is sorted out and stored separately. For explosive ordnance warehousing, tracking and testing procedures have been put in place in order to maintain its reliability.

All facilities are made of concrete and with insulation in order to maintain temperatures under 50C and humidity under not more than 75 %. Personnel working and handling explosive ordnance must be well pyrotechnically educated and certified in order to perform their duties.

Storage and handling, transport, supply and maintenance, laboratory testing and observing Life Cycle Management of explosive ordnance in Armed Forces is regulated by Ministry of Defence and General Staff of Armed Forces of Republic of Croatia with;

- Directive on storage protection and handling of explosive ordnance, MoD Zagreb dated 1998
- Decree on transport of explosive ordnance, MoD dated 2006
- Directive on chemical balance of gunpowder dated 2000
- Directive on explosive ordnance quality control in MoD and AF dated 2005
- Directive on maintaining of explosive ordnance in AF dated 2004
- Directive on record keeping of out of date and faulty explosive ordnance dated 2005
- Directive on managing with the existing quantities of explosive ordnance in AF dated 1997
- Directive on extension of rocket ammo lifetime in AF dated 2007.

Currently in the Croatian Armed Forces, process of implementation of NATO norms and standards in the area of explosive ordnance safekeeping is going on. Explosive ordnance experts from the Croatian Armed Forces are currently involved in work of NATO Committee AC/326 "CNAD Ammunition Safety group" responsible for development and improvement of norms and standards in the area of safe storage, transport and use of explosive ordnance.

Decision of the Defence Minister for the planning period to year 2018 defined:

- Types and quantities of usable explosive ordnance, their storage and maintenance;
- Types and quantities of usable and perspective classical rocket ammo that could be used for live-firing, quality control, life cycle oversight and its extension;
- Types and quantities of explosive ordnance that are not longer usable and needs to be removed by delaboration and destruction

c.) Training

Training:

One of the main fields of expertise of CROMAC-CTRO LLC is training. Training courses are conducted in accordance with IMAS and Testing and Evaluation Protocols.

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Any other relevant information:

N/A

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**FORM I:** Other relevant matters

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Any other relevant information:

N/A