

INTERNATIONAL
SMALL ARMS CONTROL
STANDARD

ISACS
01.20

Version 1.3
2016-04-22

**Glossary of terms, definitions and
abbreviations**

This document may not be up-to-date.
All up-to-date International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) are available on the ISACS website.

www.smallarmsstandards.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document – one in a series of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) – was produced by the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism in collaboration with a broad and diverse group of experts drawn from governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector. A full list of contributors to the ISACS project is available on the website listed above.

The production of ISACS was made possible by the financial support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland, as well as by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

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Foreword

The United Nations (UN) Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism strives to improve the UN's ability to work as one in delivering effective policy, programming and advice to Member States on curbing the illicit trade, uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. Established by the Secretary-General in 1998 with the task of coordinating the small arms work of the United Nations, CASA today unites more than 20 UN bodies active in policy development and/or programming related to small arms and light weapons.¹

Building on previous UN initiatives to develop international standards in the areas of mine action (International Mine Action Standards)² and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants (Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards),³ the United Nations has developed a series of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) with the aim of providing clear and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control. The present document constitutes one of more than 20 ISACS modules that provide practical guidance on instituting effective controls over the full life cycle of small arms and light weapons (all ISACS modules can be found at www.smallarmsstandards.org).

ISACS are framed by existing global agreements related to small arms and light weapons control, in particular the

- *UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects* (UN PoA);
- *International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons* (International Tracing Instrument);
- *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UN Firearms Protocol); and
- *Arms Trade Treaty*.

Within this global framework, ISACS build upon standards, best practice guidelines, model regulations, etc. that have been elaborated at the regional and sub-regional levels. ISACS seek to cover the fundamental areas of small arms and light weapons control on which the United Nations may be called upon to provide advice, guidance and support.

ISACS were developed, and continue to be improved and supplemented, by a broad coalition of small arms control specialists drawn from the United Nations, governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector (a full list of contributors to ISACS is available at www.smallarmsstandards.org).

ISACS modules were drafted in accordance with the rules set out in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*, under the oversight of the CASA Working Group on ISACS, co-chaired by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

¹ For a full listing of CASA partners, see www.poa-iss.org/CASA/CASA.aspx.

² www.mineactionstandards.org

³ www.unddr.org

Glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations

1 Scope

This document provides definitions of terms and meanings of abbreviated terms used in the individual modules (documents) that comprise the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS).

2 General

In all ISACS modules, the words 'shall', 'should', 'may' and 'can' are used to express provisions in accordance with their usage in International Organization for Standardization (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.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of all modules of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), the following terms and definitions apply.

abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO)

explosive ordnance that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict, and which is no longer under control of the party that left it behind or dumped it.

NOTE Abandoned explosive ordnance may or may not have been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for use.

access control

a system that enables an authority to control access to areas and/or resources within a given physical facility

NOTE An access control system, within the field of physical security, is generally seen as the second layer in the security of a physical structure, the first layer being perimeter security.

accident

an undesired event that results in harm

accounting, weapons

information management systems and associated operating procedures to record, numerically monitor, verify, issue and receive small arms, light weapons and their ammunition that are held in stockpiles

acquisition

process of gaining ownership

adolescent

human being aged 10 to 19 years

adolescent minor

human being aged 10 to 17 years

adult

human being aged 25 years or older

adult, young

human being aged 18 to 24 years

advocacy

programme of activities that aims to raise small arms and light weapons problems and issues with the general public, the authorities, the media, Governments and their institutions to achieve changes at both institutional and/or individual levels

NOTE These types of activities also include campaigns highlighting the small arms and light weapons problems and issues with the aim of encouraging people to surrender weapons. This is generally conducted as a support to weapons collection programmes.

air weapon

man-portable device designed for individual use that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a projectile by the action of compressed gas or gasses, but that does not employ an explosive charge to do so

NOTE For the purposes of this and other ISACS documents, air weapons are not considered to be small arms and so fall outside of the scope of ISACS.

air weapon

device that discharges a projectile from a barrel under the pressure of compressed air or other gas but that does not employ an explosive charge to do so

NOTE For the purposes of ISACS, air weapons are not considered to be small arms and so fall outside of the scope of ISACS.

ammunition

the complete round or its components, including cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets or projectiles, that are used in small arms or light weapons

NOTE Includes

- cartridges (rounds) for small arms and light weapons;
- explosive shells, grenades and missiles for light weapons; and
- mobile containers with missiles or shells for anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems.

ammunition, armour piercing

- a) projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium; or
- b) a full jacketed projectile larger than .22 calibre designed and intended for use in a handgun and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25 percent of the total weight of the projectile.

amnesty

legal measure that prospectively bars the criminal prosecution, for illegal weapons possession, of individuals who voluntarily relinquish illegal small arms, light weapons or ammunition during the course of a weapons collection programme

arisings

materials left over following the destruction of small arms or light weapons

NOTE Includes scrap metal, wood, plastics/polymers, etc.

armed service

government body authorized by law to use small arms or light weapons

associate, close

person in a position to exercise significant influence over the conduct of business conducted under a licence to manufacture small arms or light weapons

EXAMPLE A person holding a significant financial interest in the business, senior management, members of the Board of Directors, etc.

authentication

checking if end-user and end-use documentation has been forged, altered or otherwise illegally tampered with

NOTE cf. verification

automatic

small arm or light weapon that, after each discharge, automatically performs all of the steps necessary to prepare the weapon to fire again; and that will continue to fire for as long as the trigger (or other activating device) remains depressed (assuming that ammunition remains and jamming does not occur)

NOTE 1 An automatic weapon uses a portion of the energy from a firing cartridge to extract the spent cartridge case from the firing chamber and eject it from the weapon, re-cock the firing mechanism and load a new round of ammunition from the weapon's feed-device or magazine into the firing chamber. In addition, if the trigger or other activating device remains depressed, the firing pin is automatically released to begin a new firing cycle.

NOTE 2 cf. semi-automatic

awareness initiative

programme, project or activity undertaken with the overall goal of minimizing and, where possible, eliminating the negative consequences of inadequate small arms and light weapons control

NOTE 1 Small arms and light weapons awareness initiatives undertake an appropriate combination of risk education, advocacy, and public information delivery, which work together, in collaboration with other social intervention programmes, to change behaviour, facilitate appropriate alternative actions, and create safer communities.

NOTE 2 Small arms and light weapons awareness initiatives may stand alone but are preferably integrated into broader small arms and light weapons control programmes.

beneficiary

actor (individual, group or institution) that is expected to benefit from the successful implementation of a National Action Plan

border

geographic limit to the territory of a State

border check

inspection carried out at a border crossing point to ensure that persons, vehicles and goods are authorized to cross the border

border community

settlement in the vicinity of a border

border controls

border checks and border surveillance

border crossing point

official location where a State authorizes the crossing of its border

border management

range of activities related to border controls and their administration, including

- a) carrying out border controls;
- b) gathering, analysing and exchanging intelligence and other information and conducting risk assessments based on this information;
- c) analysing threats likely to affect the security of borders and setting priorities for action accordingly; and
- d) anticipating requirements regarding staff and equipment to ensure effective application of border controls

border surveillance

monitoring of a border between border crossing points, and monitoring of border crossing points outside of their official opening hours, in order to prevent the circumvention of border checks

border, blue

border separating land from water (ocean, sea or lake)

border, green

border separating land from land

borderlands

geographical area in the vicinity of a border

broker

a person or entity acting as an intermediary that brings together relevant parties and arranges or facilitates a potential transaction of small arms and light weapons in return for some form of benefit, whether financial or otherwise

brokering

activities carried out by a broker in the context of arranging or facilitating an international transfer of small arms or light weapons.

NOTE 1 Brokering activities include, but are not limited to

- serving as a finder of business opportunities to one or more parties;
- putting relevant parties in contact;
- assisting parties in proposing, arranging or facilitating agreements or possible contracts between them;
- assisting parties in obtaining the necessary documentation; and
- assisting parties in arranging the necessary payments.

NOTE 2 Some activities closely associated with brokering in small arms and light weapons, that do not necessarily in themselves constitute brokering activities, might be undertaken by brokers as part of the process of putting a deal together to gain a benefit. These activities may include, for example, acting as dealers or agents in small arms and light weapons, providing for technical assistance, training, transport, freight forwarding, storage, finance, insurance, maintenance, security and other services.

NOTE 3 Brokering activities can take place in the broker's country of nationality, residence or registration; they can also take place in another country. The small arms and light weapons do not necessarily pass through the territory of the country where the brokering activity takes place, nor does the broker necessarily take ownership of the small arms and light weapons.

buy-back

cash payment in return for the voluntary relinquishment of small arms, light weapons or their ammunition

capacity assessment

component of a small arms and light weapons survey that collects and analyzes data and information on the local, national and/or regional resources and capacities that exist to respond to problems posed by small arms and light weapons

carry

bear a small arm, in ready-to-use condition, upon, about or in the proximity of one's person

child

human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier

civil society

associations of citizens (outside their families, friends and businesses) entered into voluntarily to advance their interests, ideas and ideologies

NOTE The term does not include profit-making activity (the private sector) or governing (the public sector). Examples include associations of women, young people, retired people, etc., as well as trade unions, professional associations, social movements, indigenous people's organizations, religious and spiritual organizations, academe and public benefit non-governmental organizations.

Civilian

natural person who is not an active member of an armed service of a State

NOTE Includes employees of private security companies.

civilian organization

legal person that is not part of an armed service of a State

NOTE Includes private security companies.

collector

natural or legal person who gathers and keeps small arms or light weapons in order to preserve them for their historical, technical, cultural, artistic, educational, heritage or monetary value, or for use in research

configured for military use

small arm or light weapon manufactured and configured according to specifications set by a military armed service of a State

consignee

person (natural or legal) who is the intended recipient of a consignment

consignor

person (natural or legal) who sends a consignment (e.g. via a delivery service)

craft production

small-scale, artisanal manufacture of small arms or light weapons, including their parts or components

curio

a small arm or light weapon

- a) manufactured at least 50 years prior to the current date;
- b) certified by the curator of a government-regulated museum; or
- c) that derives at least half of its monetary value from the fact that it is novel, rare, bizarre, or associated with some historical figure, period, or event

customs

government department that collects taxes or duties on goods entering a country

or

area at a seaport, airport or border where goods, luggage and other items are examined and customs duties levied

customs duty

tax levied on goods entering a country

deflagration

combustion with sub-sonic flame propagation

delivery verification certificate

document, certified by customs or other competent authority of the importing State, confirming that internationally transferred small arms or light weapons have been received by the authorized end-user

demobilization

formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or other armed groups

NOTE 1 The first stage of demobilization may extend from the processing of individual combatants in temporary centres to the massing of troops in camps designated for this purpose (cantonment sites, encampments, assembly areas or barracks).

NOTE 2 The second stage of demobilization encompasses the support package provided to the demobilized, which is called reinsertion.

destruction

rendering permanently inoperable small arms, light weapons, their parts, components or ammunition

detonation

exothermic front passing through a medium at supersonic speed

distribution assessment

component of a small arms and light weapons survey that collects data on the type, quantity, ownership, distribution and movement of small arms and light weapons within a specific geographical region (e.g. region, country or community)

diversion

movement – either physical, administrative or otherwise – of a small arm or light weapon, its parts, components or ammunition, from the legal to the illicit realm

end-use

the ultimate application of internationally transferred small arms or light weapons

end-use assurance

commitment to circumscribe, limit or specify the use of imported small arms or light weapons, or to rule out certain uses

NOTE Usually included in an end-user certificate or end-user statement

end-use, authorized

end use agreed to by the exporting and importing States

NOTE An exporting State authorizes an end-use by specifying it in an export authorization. An importing State does so by

- a) specifying it in an end-user certificate issued by a competent national authority; or
- b) validating its specification in an end-user statement issued by a private end-user.

end-user

the ultimate recipient of an international transfer of small arms or light weapons

end-user and end-use documentation

documents whose purpose is to identify, authorize, commit to certain undertakings and verify delivery to end-users of internationally transferred small arms or light weapons

NOTE Includes end-user certificates, end-user statements and delivery verification certificates; and, under certain conditions, import authorizations and International Import Certificates.

end-user certificate

an official document, issued by a competent national authority of the importing State, that identifies a government agency of the importing State as the ultimate recipient of an international transfer of small arms or light weapons

end-user statement

a document, issued by a private end-user, that provides assurances regarding the end user and end-use of internationally transferred small arms or light weapons

end-user statement, certified

an end-user statement that has been stamped and signed (or otherwise certified) by a competent authority of the importing State

end-user, authorized

the end-user to whom both the exporting and importing States give permission to receive a consignment of small arms or light weapons

NOTE 1 The exporting State authorizes an end-user by naming it in the export authorization. The importing State does so by issuing an end-user certificate or certifying an end-user statement.

NOTE 2 If small arms are intended for commercial sale in the country of import, the importer of the weapons may be considered to be the authorized end-user.

explosion danger area

the area surrounding a demolition ground or ammunition storage area the size of which is determined by the distances that blast or fragments resulting from a detonation of ammunition may be expected to travel

explosive

substance or mixture of substances that, under external influences, is capable of rapidly releasing energy in the form of gases and heat, without undergoing a nuclear chain reaction

explosive ordnance

munitions containing explosive

NOTE Includes bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms and light weapons ammunition; all mines, torpedoes and depth charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge and propellant actuated devices; electro-explosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices; and all similar or related items or components that are explosive in nature.

explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)

the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and final disposal of unexploded explosive ordnance

NOTE 1 May also include the rendering safe and/or disposal of explosive ordnance that has become hazardous through damage or deterioration, when such tasks are beyond the capabilities of personnel normally assigned responsibility for routine disposal.

NOTE 2 The presence of ammunition and explosives during small arms and light weapons control operations will inevitably require some degree of EOD response. The level of EOD response will be dictated by the condition of the ammunition or explosives, their level of deterioration and the way in which the local community handles them.

explosive remnants of war (ERW)

unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance

explosive, high

explosive that releases its energy by means of detonation

explosive, low

explosive that releases its energy by means of deflagration

NOTE Includes propellant used in small arms and light weapons ammunition.

export

the movement of goods or services out of a State's customs jurisdiction

export, re-

the export of goods from the State that previously imported them, without further processing or transformation of the imported goods.

Firearms Protocol

Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

gender

socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for males and females

NOTE 1 To be distinguished from "sex," which refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define males and females. Examples of sex characteristics include: women menstruate while men do not; and men have testicles while women do not. Examples of gender characteristics include: in most countries, women earn significantly less money than men for similar work; and men are much more likely to use and be killed by small arms than women. The terms "male" and "female" are sex categories, while the terms "masculine" and "feminine" are gender categories.

NOTE 2 Gender is constructed and learned through socialization processes. As such, it is context- and time-specific and is changeable.

gender analysis

collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated information

NOTE Men and women perform different roles. This leads to them having different experience, knowledge, talents and needs. Gender analysis explores these differences so that policies, programmes and projects can identify and meet their different needs. Gender analysis also facilitates the strategic use of distinct knowledge and skills possessed by women and men. It is also concerned with the underlying causes of inequities, and aims to achieve positive change for women.

gender balance

relative number of males and females in a particular group

gender equality

state of affairs in which women and men can develop their personal abilities and make choices without being limited by stereotypes, rigid gender roles or prejudices

NOTE Gender equality means that the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same; it means that men and women should be treated in the same way, and that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities should not depend on whether they are born male or female.

gender mainstreaming

process of assessing the implications for females and males of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels

NOTE Gender mainstreaming challenges gender stereotypes and prevents incorrect assumptions that could otherwise skew assessment baselines. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of men and women an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, such that inequality between men and women is not perpetuated.

gender sensitivity

ability to perceive existing gender imbalances and inequalities and address these in policies, programmes and activities

gender-responsive

policies, programmes or activities that are non-discriminatory with regard to sex, equally benefit women and men and aim at correcting gender imbalances and inequalities

handgun

small arm with a short stock at an angle to and extending below the line of the barrel, that is designed to be held and fired with one hand

NOTE Examples include pistols and revolvers.

harm

physical injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment

hazard

potential source of harm

homicide

unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person

hunting

pursuing animals with intent to kill them using small arms

impact survey

component of a small arms and light weapons survey that collects data on the impact of small arms and light weapons on communities and on social and economic development; as well as on the causes of these impacts

import

the movement of goods or services into a State's customs jurisdiction

integrated border management

organization and supervision of border agency activities to meet the common challenge of facilitating the movement of legitimate people and goods while maintaining secure borders and meeting national legal requirements

NOTE Integrated border management can be divided into two categories
a) domestic integration between government agencies within one country or customs union; and
b) international integration between States (bilaterally, regionally and internationally).

International Tracing Instrument

International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

intrusion detection system

a security alarm system, which can consist of various types of alarms, designed to detect the unauthorized entry into a room, structure, facility or area

intrusion detection system, perimeter

an intrusion detection system deployed on the perimeter of a facility or area

Kyoto Convention, Revised

International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures

law enforcement agency

government body responsible for promoting and ensuring adherence to the law, and apprehending those who break the law

NOTE The term is most frequently applied to officials who conduct inspections, patrols or surveillance in order to dissuade and discover criminal activity, and to those who investigate crimes and apprehend offenders, e.g. police (including gendarmerie), border guards (including agencies with a coastguard function), customs, immigration, etc.

law enforcement cooperation

cooperation among law enforcement agencies within a State, and between law enforcement agencies in different States

licensing authority, manufacture

national body designated or otherwise recognized by a government for licensing and regulatory purposes in connection with the manufacture of small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and ammunition

light weapon

any man-portable lethal weapon designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew (although some may be carried and used by a single person) that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive

NOTE 1 includes, inter alia, heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a calibre of less than 100 millimetres, as well as their parts, components and ammunition.

NOTE 2 Excludes antique light weapons and their replicas.

light weapon, antique

defined in accordance with domestic law but in no case includes light weapons manufactured after 1899

light weapon, antique replica

object designed or intended to exactly resemble, or to resemble with near precision, an antique light weapon

light weapon, deactivated

light weapon that has been rendered incapable of expelling or launching a shot, bullet, missile or other projectile by the action of an explosive, that cannot be readily restored to do so, and that has been certified and marked as deactivated by a competent State authority

NOTE 1 Deactivation requires that all pressure-bearing components of a light weapon be permanently altered in such a way so as to render the weapon unusable. This includes modifications to the barrel, bolt, cylinder, slide, firing pin and/or receiver/frame.

light weapon, illicit

light weapon that

- a) contravenes the law of the State in whose jurisdiction it is located;
- b) has been illicitly manufactured (see “manufacturing, illicit”);
- c) has been illicitly transferred (see “transfer, illicit”); or
- d) is unmarked, inadequately marked or has had marks removed, obliterated or falsified

make

man-portable air-defence system (MANPADS)

surface-to-air missile system that can be carried and launched by one person, or by two or three persons serving as a crew

NOTE MANPADS are usually shoulder-launched and typically launch guided missiles.

manufacturer

person, natural or legal, who engages in manufacturing

manufacturing

making, producing or assembling

- a) a complete small arm or light weapon;
- b) a pressure-bearing part or component of a small arm or light weapon (e.g. barrel, slide, cylinder, bolt, breech block, etc.); or
- c) ammunition for a small arm or light weapon.

NOTE 1 Includes

- d) reactivating a deactivated small arm or light weapon; and
- e) substantially modifying the function of a small arm or light weapon (e.g. converting a semi-automatic weapon to fully-automatic).

NOTE 2

Does not include

- a) repair, restoration, maintenance or cosmetic enhancement or alteration of a small arm or light weapon; nor
- b) the non-commercial reloading of ammunition (e.g. by hunters and sport shooters) where this is permitted by domestic law.

manufacturing, illicit

manufacturing of small arms or light weapons, their parts, components or ammunition

- a) from parts and components illicitly acquired or trafficked;
- b) without a licence granted by the designated licensing authority or other authorization of the State where the manufacture takes place, granted in accordance with domestic law; or
- c) without marking the small arms or light weapons at the time of manufacture

marking

application of permanent inscriptions on small arms, light weapons, ammunition and ammunition packaging to permit their identification

munition

complete device charged with explosives, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating composition, or nuclear, biological or chemical material for use in military operations, including demolitions

NOTE In common usage, 'munitions' (plural) can be military weapons, ammunition and equipment.

museum

non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment

museum loan

any transfer of museum artifacts and associated material between museums or between a museum and a borrower or lender, mostly related to temporary and permanent exhibitions or scientific research, without change of ownership

National Action Plan

comprehensive plan to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade, destabilising accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons at the national level and to address associated social, economic and environmental impacts

NOTE A National Action Plan may operate over the short, medium or long term and can include short-, medium- and long-term objectives.

National Authority

the lead government agency on small arms and light weapons control, which provides political coordination and policy direction for national small arms and light weapons control efforts.

national coordinating mechanism

a government entity that is responsible for the overall direction and coordination of national small arms and light weapons control processes.

ownership

legal title

NOTE 1 Ownership is not the same as possession, which only requires physical custody or control (cf. "possession"). A person can be the owner of a small arm but not be in possession of it.

NOTE 2 This is a revision of an existing definition in ISACS 01.20, which will be modified once this module is adopted.

parts and components

any element or replacement element specifically designed for a small arm or light weapon and essential to its operation

NOTE Includes barrel, frame or receiver, slide or cylinder, bolt or breech block, and any device designed or adapted to diminish the sound caused by firing

penetrating trauma

injury resulting from an object piercing the skin and entering a tissue of the body

perception survey

component of a small arms and light weapons survey that collects qualitative and quantitative information on the attitudes of the public and key stakeholders towards small arms and light weapons, armed violence and related issues (such as security, development and governance), as well as on possible interventions to address them

NOTE Small arms and light weapons perception surveys collect information through a variety of means, including but not limited to focus groups, interviews, and household surveys.

pistol

handgun with a chamber as an integral part of, or permanently aligned with, the barrel

Point of Contact, National

an officially designated individual within the national government with responsibility for liaising with relevant national stakeholders, as well as with other States, regional- and sub-regional bodies and the United Nations, on matters relating to small arms and light weapons control.

police

department of a government or state concerned with maintaining public order and safety, and enforcing the law

port

geographic area defined by a State or a designated authority, including port facilities as defined in the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, in which maritime and other activities occur

possession

physical custody or control

NOTE 1 Possession is not the same as ownership, which implies legal title (cf. "ownership"). A person can be in possession of a small arm but not own it.

NOTE 2 This is a revision of an existing definition in ISACS 01.20, which will be modified once this module is adopted.

private security company

non-governmental, legal person that offers physical protection services in return for a fee and whose employees (some or all) possess, carry or use small arms in the course of their work

Programme of Action

United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

relic

curio

reloading, ammunition

the process whereby a previously fired cartridge case is re-fitted with a new primer, propellant and projectile in order to create a complete, functioning round of ammunition

render safe procedure

application of special explosive ordnance disposal methods and tools to interrupt functions or separate essential components in order to prevent an unacceptable detonation

responsible person

in the case of a company/body corporate, the person nominated in an application for a small arms or light weapons manufacturing licence by a company/body corporate, or any other officer of the company/body corporate

revolver

handgun with a breech-loading, chambered cylinder arranged so that the cocking of the hammer or depression of the trigger rotates the cylinder and brings the next cartridge in line with the barrel for firing

rifle

small arm designed to expel, through the action of an explosive, one projectile at a time through a rifled barrel, while held with both hands

risk

combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

risk analysis

systematic use of available information to identify hazards and to estimate the risk

risk assessment

the overall process comprising a risk analysis and a risk evaluation

risk education

activities that seek to reduce the risk of injury or death to members of the public from small arms and light weapons by raising awareness and promoting safe behaviour among individuals, families and communities

NOTE 1 Such activities include information exchange with at-risk communities, communication of safety messages to target groups and support for community risk management and participation in small arms and light weapons control.

NOTE 2 Risk education aims to ensure that communities are aware of the risks from small arms and light weapons and are encouraged to behave in a way that reduces the risk to people, property, and the environment.

risk evaluation

the process based on risk analysis to determine whether the tolerable risk has been achieved

risk reduction

actions taken to lessen the probability, negative consequences or both, associated with a particular risk

risk, residual

the risk remaining following the application of all reasonable efforts to remove the risks inherent in small arms and light weapons control activities

risk, tolerable

risk, which is accepted in a given context based on the current values of society

SAFE Framework

SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, World Customs Organization

safe to move

technical assessment, by an appropriately qualified technician or technical officer, of the physical condition and stability of ammunition and explosives prior to any proposed move

safety

situation in which the risk of accidental harm has been reduced to a tolerable level

sample, purposive

non-representative subset of some larger population that is constructed to serve a specific need or purpose

NOTE A researcher may have a specific group in mind, such as adolescent male gang members. It may not be possible to specify the population (they would not all be known) and access could be difficult. The researcher attempts to zero in on the target group, interviewing whomever is available.

sample, representative

subset of a statistical population that accurately reflects the members of the entire population

sampling

the process of selecting a sub-set of a population being studied in order to learn more about the entire population through statistical inference based on the responses of the sub-set

selective-fire

capability of a small arm or light weapon that can be adjusted to fire in two or more of the following ways:

- a) semi-automatic, (i.e. one shot per depression of the trigger);
- b) multi-shot burst (i.e. a set number of shots per depression of the trigger); or
- c) automatic (i.e. continuous fire while the trigger is depressed).

self-loading

semi-automatic

semi-automatic

small arm or light weapon that, after each discharge, automatically performs all of the steps necessary to prepare the weapon to fire again, but that requires a separate depression of the trigger (or other activating device) to fire each round of ammunition

NOTE 1 A semi-automatic weapon uses a portion of the energy from a firing cartridge to extract the spent cartridge case from the firing chamber and eject it from the weapon, re-cock the firing mechanism and load a new cartridge from the weapon's feed-device or magazine into the firing chamber.

NOTE 2 cf. automatic

shotgun

small arm designed to expel, through the action of an explosive, shot or a single projectile through a smooth-bored barrel, while supported against the shoulder and held with both hands

small arm

any man-portable lethal weapon designed for individual use that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive

NOTE 1 Includes, inter alia, revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns, as well as their parts, components and ammunition.

NOTE 2 Excludes antique small arms and their replicas.

small arm, antique

defined in accordance with domestic law but in no case includes small arms manufactured after 1899

small arm, antique replica

object designed or intended to exactly resemble, or to resemble with near precision, an antique small arm

small arm, blank-firing

small arm that has been manufactured or permanently altered to allow the firing of blank (non-projectile) ammunition only

small arm, deactivated

small arm that has been rendered incapable of expelling or launching a shot, bullet, missile or other projectile by the action of an explosive, that cannot be readily restored to do so, and that has been certified and marked as deactivated by a competent State authority

NOTE 1 Deactivation requires that all pressure-bearing components of a small arm be permanently altered in such a way so as to render the weapon unusable. This includes modifications to the barrel, bolt, cylinder, slide, firing pin and/or receiver/frame.

small arm, illicit

small arm that

- a) contravenes the law of the State in whose jurisdiction it is located;
- b) has been illicitly manufactured (see “manufacturing, illicit”);
- c) has been illicitly transferred (see “transfer, illicit”); or
- d) is unmarked, inadequately marked or has had marks removed, obliterated or falsified

sport shooting

competitive sports involving tests of proficiency (accuracy and speed) using various types of small arms, ammunition and targets

NOTE cf. hunting

standard

document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context

NOTE Standards should be based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.

standard operating procedure

instructions that define the preferred or currently established method of conducting an operational task or activity

NOTE 1 Their purpose is to promote recognisable and measurable degrees of discipline, uniformity, consistency and commonality within an organization, with the aim of improving operational effectiveness and safety.

NOTE 2 SOPs should reflect local requirements and circumstances.

stock

a given quantity of small arms and/or light weapons, including their parts, components and ammunition

stock check

the process of counting and verifying the physical balance of stock as part of a system of inventory control

stockpile

a large accumulated stock of small arms and/or light weapons, including their parts, components and ammunition

NOTE Often used interchangeably with “stock” or to denote the weapons or ammunition retained in a specific storage facility. (cf. stock; cf. stockpile, national).

stockpile management

procedures and activities designed to ensure the safe and secure accounting, storage, transportation and handling of small arms and/or light weapons, including their parts, components and ammunition

stockpile, national

all small arms and light weapons (including their parts, components and ammunition) designated for use by armed services of the State

NOTE Includes weapons, both in active use and in storage, held by military forces (active and reserve), police, border guards, customs officers, wildlife officers, etc., irrespective of their classification (e.g. operational, training, awaiting disposal, etc.).

surplus

functioning small arms and light weapons in a State stockpile that are no longer required by the armed services of the State in order to ensure internal and external security

survey report, small arms and light weapons

document presenting the findings and recommendations of a small arms and light weapons survey

survey, small arms and light weapons

collection and analysis of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative information on small arms and light weapons within a specific geographical area (e.g. region, country or community) with a view to determining the need for and nature of safe, effective and efficient interventions by appropriate stakeholders

NOTE 1 Small arms and light weapons surveys seek to determine

- a) the nature and extent of the spread and impact of small arms and light weapons;
- b) public and stakeholder perceptions regarding small arms and light weapons, armed violence and related issues; and
- c) the capacity to respond to the challenges posed by small arms and light weapons.

NOTE 2 Small arms and light weapons surveys are sometimes referred to as “baseline assessments,” “mappings” or “national assessments.”

target

actor (individual, group or institution) whose behaviour or attitudes are identified as needing to change in order to achieve the goals and objectives of a National Action Plan

NOTE Behaviour in relation to an institution (e.g. a government department or agency) can be expressed through the practices and actions of that institution, while its attitudes can be expressed through its formal policies. A change in behaviour of a government agency may therefore be expressed through a change in its standard operating procedures; a change in its attitudes may be expressed through changes in policies, regulations or law.

technology

scientific knowledge applied to a practical purpose

NOTE Includes scientific knowledge applied to the production, marking, recordkeeping, tracing, safe and secure storage, and destruction of small arms and light weapons.

territory

land, territorial waters, internal waters and national airspace over which a State exercises legal jurisdiction

tracing

the systematic tracking of illicit small arms, light weapons or ammunition from the point of their manufacture or import, through the lines of supply, to the point at which they became illicit

tracing request, international

a request, by a point of contact on tracing in one State to a point of contact on tracing in another State, for assistance in tracing a recovered illicit small arm or light weapon

tracing, national system

the structures, methods, and procedures that allow the competent authorities of a State to undertake domestic tracing operations and to initiate and respond to international tracing requests

trafficking

dealing in illicit small arms or light weapons

transfer

general term encompassing the import, export, transit, transshipment and brokering of small arms or light weapons

NOTE includes sales, leases, loans and gifts; re-export, licenced production abroad, and tangible and intangible transfers of equipment and technology for the purpose of producing small arms or light weapons.

transfer, illicit

the import, export, transit, transshipment or brokering of small arms or light weapons

- a) with the intention to supply a State under a UN Security Council arms embargo;
- b) where any one of the States involved does not authorize the transfer,
- c) that have been illicitly manufactured;
- d) that have been stolen or otherwise illicitly acquired; or
- e) that are unmarked, inadequately marked or have had marks removed, obliterated or falsified

transit

movement of goods across the territory of a State as part of a transfer between two other States, including the transloading of the goods at the points of entry into and exit from the transit State

transloading

transferring goods from one transportation vessel to another

NOTE Includes transfers from one mode of transportation to another (e.g. from ship to truck) and transfers between different vessels of the same mode of transportation (e.g. from one ship to another).

transparency

free and open access to information that enables civil society to perform its regulatory function

NOTE Transparency is sometimes used as a synonym for accountability in governance.

transshipment

transport of goods to an intermediate location outside the exporting and importing States, where they are loaded to a different transport vessel and transported to their final destination (or additional point of transshipment) without crossing the territory of the State in which the transloading takes place

NOTE Transshipment usually takes place in transport hubs at ports and often takes place within designated customs areas, which are not subject to customs checks or duties.

unexploded ordnance (UXO)

explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used (e.g. fired, dropped, launched or projected) but that remains unexploded either through malfunction, design or any other reason

use

application of a small arm or light weapon

NOTE Includes brandishing, aiming and firing (whether defensively or offensively, legally or illegally), as well as manipulating the working parts of a small arm or light weapon (e.g. safety, slide, trigger, etc.). Does not include cleaning or maintenance.

verification

checking that the content of end-use documentation is accurate

NOTE cf. authentication

vetting, security

a process used to perform background checks on an individual's suitability for a particular appointment

NOTE It normally consists of 1) confirming an individual's identity; 2) detecting any associations with criminal elements or any associations that may cause a conflict of interest; and 3) determining vulnerabilities in an individual's life through which improper pressure could be brought to bear.

violence against women

any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women

NOTE Includes threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life

violence, gender-based

violence directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex

NOTE It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, or other deprivations of liberty. While women, men, boys and girls can be victims of gender-based violence, because of their subordinate status women and girls are the primary victims

violence, intimate partner

behaviour in an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours

violence, sexual

any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work

weapon

small arm or light weapon

weapons collection point

temporary or semi-permanent location, laid out in accordance with the principles of explosive and weapons safety, which is designed to act as a focal point for the voluntary relinquishment of small arms and light weapons

weapons in competition for development (WCD)

voluntary relinquishment of small arms and light weapons by competing communities in exchange for a share of a fixed amount of community infrastructure development that is proportionate to each community's share of the total number of weapons relinquished

weapons in exchange for development (WED)

voluntary relinquishment of small arms and light weapons by a community in exchange for community infrastructure development

weapons in exchange for incentives (WEI)

voluntary relinquishment of small arms and light weapons by individuals in exchange for non-monetary goods (e.g. tools, building materials, etc.)

weapons linked to development (WLD)

voluntary relinquishment of small arms and light weapons by a community in exchange for an increase in on-going development assistance

young child

human being aged 0 to 9 years

young person

human being aged 10 to 24 years

youth

human being aged 15 to 24 years

4 Abbreviated terms

ATO	Ammunition Technical Officer
AVP	Armed violence prevention
AVR	Armed violence reduction
AXO	Abandoned Explosive Ordnance
CASA	United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism
CCA	United Nations Common Country Assessment
CCTV	Closed circuit television
CEN	Comité Européen de Normalisation / European Committee for Standardization or Customs Enforcement Network of the World Customs Organization
CPSP	Code of Practice on Security in Ports
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DVC	Delivery Verification Certificate
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EUC	End-User Certificate
EUS	End-User Statement
FIND	Fixed INTERPOL Network Database
iArms	INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
IATG	International Ammunition Technical Guidelines
IBIN	INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network
IBIS	Integrated Ballistic Identification System
IBM	Integrated Border Management
IDDRS	Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFRT	INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table
IFTS	INTERPOL Firearms Tracing System
IIC	International Import Certificate

ILO	International Labour Organization
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ISACS	International Small Arms Control Standards
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISPS	International Ship & Port Facility Security Code
ITI	International Tracing Instrument [Full title: International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons]
LME	London Metal Exchange
MANPADS	Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems
MIND	Mobile INTERPOL Network Database
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCB	INTERPOL National Central Bureau
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PFSA	Port Facility Security Assessment
PFSP	Port Facility Security Plan
PoA	Programme of Action [Full title: United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects]
PoA-ISS	Programme of Action Implementation Support System of the United Nations – www.poa-iss.org
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRSP	United Nations Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RILO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office, World Customs Organization
ROCB	Regional Office for Capacity Building, World Customs Organization
RSO	Recognized Security Organization
SALW	Small arms and/or light weapons
SID	Seafarer's Identity Document
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of life at Sea
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

ISACS 01.20:2016(E)V1.3

SSA	Ship Security Assessment
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WCD	Weapons in competition for development
WED	Weapons in exchange for development
WEI	Weapons in exchange for incentives
WLD	Weapons linked to development



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