

## Exercise: Using ISACS in the Context of Marking, Recordkeeping and Tracing

### SCENARIO—Context

Country Y is a new state that has recently gained its independence. While the country experienced high levels of armed violence during the years leading up to its independence, the country has seen relative calm and peace since its independence. While the international community has recognized and praised the high level of commitment and effort that the Government of Country Y has demonstrated, it is still unable to provide adequate governance and security to its population and territory.

Country Y is located in a region with increasing levels of armed violence, with reliable cases of illicit trafficking in drugs, arms, and people. Early warning signs show that organized criminal networks are being established without much resistance from law enforcement agencies.

While it is not possible to confirm any relationship with the issue of regional trafficking, there has been a rise in firearm-related crime in Country Y. Country Y has a history of cross-border illegal arms flows and only since its independence has started to import weapons legally for its security forces, including the police. Civilian ownership of weapons is prohibited at this time and the increase in firearm-related crimes is raising concern in Country Y.

In response to this issue, the Government of Country Y is determined to impose stricter control of its state arsenal and identify the sources of illicit firearms. However, the Government of Country Y lacks technical knowledge on what frameworks, procedures, and practices are needed to enhance weapons management and identify illicit arms flows. In this connection, Government Y would like to contract a team that can provide technical assistance to improve the capacity of law enforcement authorities.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TASK**

You are part of an independent, external consultant team that has been contracted by the Government of Country Y to provide technical assistance to law enforcement officials on firearms marking, recordkeeping, and identification to enable tracing. The Government of Country Y has obtained funding for this contract from a major donor, which has requested that the Government implement control measures in line with international standards. The objective of the task is to identify essential information needed to identify a firearm in order to trace it. As a prerequisite to this, you are being asked to conduct three main tasks:

1. Markings assessment in line with ISACS;
2. Recordkeeping assessment in line with ISACS; and
3. Weapons identification and tracing preparation.

For each of the tasks above, you are specifically interested in the following:

- What practices are covered in line with the ISACS;
- What measures are missing; and
- Determine how traceable the weapon is based on the information provided.

For both practices covered and missing, provide insight in your briefing note into why the practices covered/missing are important for tracking firearms.

You will present to the head of the working group established by the Ministry of Interior on the issue of trafficking in firearms. The presentation format to the head of the working group is flexible.

**HELP TIP**

Recall the steps to conducting an assessment:

1. Identify the information need that needs to be measured in the Module;
  - a. Identify specific the clause/subclauses that you wish to measure. Check with the facilitator to ensure that you have identified correctly the measures to be assessed.
2. Design a questionnaire to formulate a baseline assessment;
  - a. The questionnaire may be in the form of a PDF checklist.
3. Collect relevant data based on the information provided; and
4. Analyse the results to inform the findings and report.

**KEY NOTE**

1. Implemented: Measure that you are certain has been implemented (100%).
2. In Progress: Measures that you observe have been undertaken, but not completely implemented (1%–99%). In Progress may also be used in cases when a certain aspect of the measure (as described by the indicator) is implemented.
3. Not Implemented: Measures that you are certain have not been implemented based on the information provided and/or observed.
4. Not answered: Measures that you are not able to evaluate due to lack of information provided.
5. Not applicable: Measures that are not applicable to the context you are dealing with.

## Task 1: Marking identification and assessment

### Task

Examine the firearm marking images below. Using the ISACS–AT, design a questionnaire based on the Content of Classical Markings on Small Arms and Light Weapons for Markings at the Time of Manufacture,<sup>1</sup> in order to assess whether the markings applied by the manufacturer are in line with ISACS. As noted in the scenario, you are specifically interested in the following tasks:

- What practices are covered in line with the ISACS;
- What measures are missing; and
- Determine how traceable the weapon is based on the information provided.

For measures missing, provide insight on why such information may be useful in identify and tracing a weapon. Once the ISACS–AT questionnaire is completed, provide the responses to the ISACS–AT facilitator. The results of the assessment can be used to brief the head of the working group.

### Supporting information

The year of manufacture may be expressed by the use of date codes (See date code table). This firearm is not intended for use by a domestic state entities in the country of manufacture.

### Assumption

All available marking information is presented below in images. If certain information is missing from the images below, consider that the relevant information is missing from the firearm marking.

### Exercise A

Image 1



Photo credit: © hkpro

Table 1: Date code

Digit	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Firearms	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
Magazines	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

Photo credit: © hkpro

<sup>1</sup> Alternatively users can use the Marking Exercise Questionnaire PDF provided on the ISACS website.

Exercise B

Image 2



Photo credit: ZVBw



Photo credit: ZVBw

## Task 2: Recordkeeping assessment

### Task

You have been requested to assess the records of state-issued firearms and report on whether the information being recorded is in line with the requirements of the ISACS. Examine the records below and assess whether any information is missing using the ISACS-AT. Specifically, using the ISACS-AT, design a questionnaire based on Records to be Kept for All Weapons and Records to be Kept for Imported Weapons.<sup>2</sup> For any missing information, provide the reason why it is essential to record it. The results of the assessment can be used to brief the head of the working group.

### Assumption

All available information is presented in the table below. The image of the firearm has not been recorded and thus is not available. If certain information is missing from the table, consider it as practice not in line with the ISACS and identify the missing information.

### Sample Records

#### Record #1

Log #	Type	Make	Model	Manufacture	Serial #	Country of manufacture
19405	Hand gun	Glock	22	Glock	CU753	Austria

#### Record #2

Type	Make	Model	Manufacture	Serial #	Calibre
Rifle	AK	47	-	18334	7.62mm

#### Record #3

Log #	Type	Model	Manufacture	Serial #	Country of manufacture	Marking location	Ownership
553	Machine gun	22E	HK	334C9	Austria	Barrel	Army

#### Record #4 (Imported weapon)

Type	Make	Model	Manufacture	Serial #	Import authorization #	Date of import	Exporting country	Entity
Rifle	AK	M	AK	-	7601	01/09/2014	Country B	Army

<sup>2</sup> Alternatively users can use the Marking Exercise Questionnaire PDF provided on the ISACS website.



### Task 3: Identification of illicit weapons

#### Task

You have been requested to assist Government of Country Y in identifying the type and country of origin of weapons that it has seized from non-state armed groups. Examine the images below and using the **AK Field Guide**<sup>3</sup> identify the country of origin of each weapon. For each case, provide the identifying characteristics, so that the Ministry of Interior can adequately support the information included in its trace request to the manufacturing government. In some cases, there may be multiple possibilities, which would require sending tracing requests to one or more governments.

#### Exercise A

Image 1: Type and model



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research

Image 2: Markings



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the Conflict Armament Research paper to complete this task: [http://www.conflictarm.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Field\\_Guide\\_4\\_Identifying\\_Marks\\_on\\_Kalashnikov\\_Pattern\\_Weapons.pdf](http://www.conflictarm.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Field_Guide_4_Identifying_Marks_on_Kalashnikov_Pattern_Weapons.pdf).

**Exercise B**

**Image 1: Type and model**



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research

**Image 2: Markings**



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research



Exercise C

**Image 1: Type and model**



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research

**Image 2: Markings (Serial number: 25187)**



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research

**Image 3: Top view**



Photo credit: Conflict Armament Research