

ASSIM: THE HELP-TO-DECISION TOOL TO OPTIMISE IM SIGNATURE SPECIFICATION

ABSTRACT

A Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) approach can be used to demonstrate the economic arguments to justify the costs associated with the introduction of Insensitive Munitions (IM) – Munitions à Risques Atténués (MURAT). Tools such as CBAM and ACB have been developed by MSIAC and IMEMG to estimate the costs to comply with a required IM level. This analysis involves the comparison of the various ownership costs across the life cycle of the munition to identify savings that could be made with the use of IM.

A CBA approach has also generated the need for derivative tools not directly linked to cost calculations. The IMEMG Expert Working Group on CBA started developing the help-to-decision tool ASSIM (**A**ssistant to **S**pecify a **S**ignature for an **IM**/Murat – **A**ide à la **S**pécification d'une **S**ignature **IM**/Murat) as a means for the various stakeholders to discuss and apply ALARP principles to IM specification.

Though manufacturers aim to meet the requirements of STANAG 4439, only a few of the munitions currently manufactured are fully IM compliant. This raises the question: why reach a full STANAG 4439 compliance if other means can lead to acceptable risks? For a given threat, would it be reasonable to accept a Type III instead of a required Type V to ease the requirement? If the question is considered over the entire life cycle of the ammunition, are there sufficient arguments to support such a decision? The ASSIM tool was developed to tackle these questions. With no calculations, the aim was to provide a structure to facilitate discussion of IM requirements between the manufacturer and other stakeholders during the specification phase.

The first release of ASSIM will be presented to highlight the primary functions of the tool. The feedback received from beta testers will also be reported, and a number of new functions will be proposed to develop and improve the tool.