



# AN IMEMG APPROACH TO OPTIMISE IM SIGNATURE SPECIFICATION: ASSIM PROGRESS

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In the context of IM, 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). For the last 20 years, several tools have been developed to estimate and to compare various ownership costs across the life cycle of the munition with the aim of identifying savings with IM.

These analyses were and are still of interest but one of the main issues is the need to discuss costs. The 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 (Assistant to Specify a Signature for an IM/Murat – Aide à la Spécification d'une Signature IM/Murat) as a means of facilitating discussion between the various stakeholders based on the application of ALARP principles to IM specification.

For manufacturers developing IMs, STANAG 4439 is mandatory. At the present time, only few munitions currently manufactured are fully IM compliant. This raises the question: why reach full STANAG 4439 compliance if other means can lead to acceptable risks? For a given threat, would it be reasonable to accept a Type IV response 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 is to provide a basis for structured discussions of IM requirements between the manufacturer and other stakeholders during the specification phase.

The first release of ASSIM was presented in Rome to highlight the primary functions of the tool. The next phase of work will focus on collecting feedback from the IM community in order to identify further requirements for application of this CBA approach. The output will be used to guide development and implementation of new functions to improve the tool.