Article 3 - Stockpile destruction and retention

Completed destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles in November 2015

Has retained some cluster munitions for training purposes in accordance with Article 3.6

Article 4 - Clearance and risk reduction education

Clearance obligation deadline: 1 August 2020, extended to 1 August 2025

Estimated contaminated area: 11 million m$^2$

Total of 1.452 million m$^2$ cleared in 2017 and 2018

Submitted extension request that was considered at the 9MSP; analysis of the request can be found [here](#)

Article 5 - Victim assistance

Does not have cluster munition victims

Article 6 - International cooperation and assistance

Provided financial assistance in 2018 for mine action (including cluster munitions) to: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Western Sahara, and Yemen

Article 7 - Transparency measures

Initial transparency report submitted on 27 January 2011


Article 9 - National implementation measures

Inserted prohibitions on cluster munitions into the *War Weapons Control Act* in 2009 that includes penal sanctions as required by the CCM

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Declaration of Compliance with Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Submitted by Germany
4 July 2016

I. Declaration of Compliance


2. The DAP encourages States Parties that have fulfilled obligations under Article 3 to increase the exchange of information amongst themselves and expert organisations on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices, including safety, environmental impact and efficiency (Action 2.2), and to make an official declaration of compliance with Article 3 obligations to Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences of the Convention (Action 2.4).

3. On 25 November 2015, the Federal Republic of Germany declared that it had – apart from retentions in accordance with Article 3(6) – destroyed all its cluster munition and explosive submunition stockpiles and had thereby fulfilled its obligations in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention approximately two and a half years ahead of schedule.

II. Scope of Declared Stockpiles

4. In its initial report in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Convention, Germany declared in early 2011 that with the entry into force of the Convention, its aggregate stockpiles of cluster munitions included 14 different types and amounted to a total of 238,046 items or 39,348.605 explosive submunitions respectively (with another 281,772 items or 23,948,928 explosive submunitions already destroyed before the Convention’s entry into force).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster munition type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Explosive submunition type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>155 mm ICM DM602</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1348</td>
<td>16,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155 mm ICM DM632</td>
<td>121,201</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1385</td>
<td>7,635,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155 mm ICM DM642</td>
<td>34,144</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1383</td>
<td>2,151,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155 mm ICM DM642A1</td>
<td>66,206</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1383</td>
<td>4,170,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155 mm ICM DM652</td>
<td>9,407</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1383</td>
<td>460,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203 mm ICM DM602</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Bomblet DM1385A1</td>
<td>28,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Those more than half a million items containing more than 60 million explosive submunitions were destroyed during a period of roughly 14 years, mostly by privately owned destruction companies in Germany with experience in destroying the munitions of the former East German army following German reunification.

6. The total cost of the destruction of cluster munitions since 2001 amounted to approximately 44 million euros.

III. Methods

7. The process of disposing cluster munitions and explosive submunitions was generally based on the same principle as that applicable to conventional ammunition. Moreover, the procedures for the individual types of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions did not differ greatly.

8. The individual disposal steps were more or less automated, depending on the number of items of the individual munition types. Dangerous disposal steps, such as mechanical operations on initiating devices, were generally performed with safety precautions in place and in specially protected buildings.

9. Cluster munition and explosive submunition destruction was carried out in an environmentally responsible manner by way of a detailed multistage procedure of disassembly, recycling and combustion consisting of the following individual disposal steps:
   - Removing the igniters/initiating devices (rocket fuses, fuses, ejection charges)
   - Separating munition components (fully automated)
   - No personnel present during mechanical operations on munitions (defusing; separation of explosive materials)
- Recycling or thermal destruction of munition components containing explosives
- Recycling of residual metal parts, which remained in large amounts because of metal casing and packaging

IV. Challenges

10. A special challenge in the disposal of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions is posed by the high number of items, as approximately 62 million explosive submunitions in the Bundeswehr stockpiles in 2001 had to be disposed of. Furthermore, bomblets vary considerably in terms of manufacturing quality. Variations in material properties, such as hardness and resistance of steel, have also led to problems during demilitarisation.

11. Given that explosive submunitions were not intentionally constructed for the purpose of their disassembly, there were numerous possible flaws that had also to be taken into account when devising disposal technology. Safety analyses needed to focus particularly on the mechanical stresses which occur when the fuses are separated from the shell bodies.

12. Constructional precautions had to be taken to ensure that explosive reactions did not cause mass detonations during demil operations.

V. Lessons Learnt

13. Large quantities of explosive submunitions to be destroyed pose particular risks. A thorough risk analysis, which takes into account all possible construction – and material-related flaws, as well as fully automated demil operations conducted with adequate safety precautions, reduce the risk of spontaneous ignition and, in worst case, dangerous mass detonations.

14. Furthermore, a separation by stock-keeping units (SKU, assorted by production lot number) in the demilitarisation process was the preferred way to avoid temporary overflow of facilities’ storage capacity. This also simplifies the accounting for the military customer units and the national logistics bases.

15. More detailed information on the lessons learnt such as sophisticated arrangements and technical approaches, which cover environmental issues, accident prevention, worksite safety, transport, explosives handling, weapons control and foreign trade are available at the privately owned destruction companies in Germany (in alphabetical order): (1) Muni Berka GmbH, Am Frohen Busch 1, 06536 Südharz, Ortsteil Dietersdorf, (2) Nammo BUCK GmbH, Industrie- und Gewerbegebiet, 16278 Pinnow, (3) Spreewerk Lübben GmbH, Börnichen 99, 15907 Lübben.

VI. Contact information

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