

Chapter 5

GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESS

INTRODUCTION

0501. This chapter amplifies the policy, outlined in Chapter 1 for controlling access to MOD land ranges by the public and for warning them of the dangers of entry. This meets the duties imposed by the HSW Act and the Occupier's Liability Acts. In particular the following are covered:

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0502. The primary aim of this Chapter is to define the measures which must be taken to ensure the safety of the public where they may have access to MOD ranges.

0503. The hazards which may arise during training include:

- a. **Active Hazards.** Active hazards include those caused by weapons or fragments thereof, noise, smoke, volatile chemicals and radiation from non-ionising sources. Typical non-ionising sources include electromagnetic devices such as lasers and radars.
- b. **Residual Hazards.** Residual hazards are those which may remain after firing has been completed. Examples of residual hazards include blinds, old ordnance, non-volatile chemicals, or the wire from wire guided missiles.

0504. The public must be protected from these hazards by all means which are reasonably practicable. The cycle to ensure this protection is:

- a. Identification of the area where a hazard will exist. Usually this will be a Range Danger Area (RDA) or Range Danger Zone (RDZ). For a given practice the RDA/Z must contain the Weapon Danger Area (WDA) and Weapon Danger Zone (WDZ) for the weapon system in use. The abbreviation RDA is used in the rest of this Chapter. The terms RDA/Z and WDA/Z are defined in Volume IV of this publication.
- b. Warning the public that a hazard exists.

- c. Clearing the active RDA of the public.
- d. Ensuring the RDA remains clear of intruders or making provision for the timely cessation of the hazardous activity before the activity poses a risk to the intruder.
- e. Permitting the practice to take place.
- f. At the end of the practice ensuring as far as is reasonably practicable that the RDA or appropriate part of the RDA is no longer hazardous. Once this has been ensured the measures in sub-para d above may cease and the public may be admitted.
- g. Permitting limited or general public access.
- h. When it is not possible to ensure the RDA or requisite part of it is no longer hazardous then one of the following measures must be taken:
 - (1) The RDA must be treated as a Closed Impact Area. Access, other than for authorised EOC/EOD operations, must be prevented as far as is reasonably practicable. The term Closed Impact Area/Zone is defined in Volume IV of this publication.
 - (2) The RDA must be treated as a Controlled Impact Area. A Controlled Impact Area is one which is known or believed to contain a residual hazard but, due to rights of way or for other reasons, public access cannot be fully prevented at times when there is no firing in progress. After firing has finished and before public access is permitted to a controlled impact area, designated routes through the area must be cleared. MOD personnel and others who have good reason to enter the area must be fully briefed on the specific dangers in the area. Control of access to areas containing a residual hazard must be provided by easily visible warning signs and notices and, where necessary, waymarking or fences to direct people away from areas of hazard. The term Controlled Impact Area/Zone is defined in Volume IV of this publication.

0505. The two activities at paragraph 0504c and 0504d above collectively constitute Clear Range Procedure. This is defined in Volume IV.

0506. If a part of a WDA falls outside the delineated sea danger area of a training range it may be possible to mitigate the hazard through Clear Range Procedure. This requires surveillance to be maintained over the whole danger area, i.e. the sea danger area plus that part of the WDA not contained within it, for the period that firing is in progress. Measures must be in place that permit firing to be stopped as soon as any incursion is imminent.

MARKING

0507. The purpose of marking is to make it improbable that unauthorised persons or authorised but unprotected persons could stray into a RDA without having been warned that they were about to do so and of the hazards which exist. The markings

also assist range staffs by defining the area which must be cleared and controlled before firing can commence.

0508. Measures which assist in warning against or controlling access include fencing, flags, lights and signs. If any of these measures are mentioned in or required by local byelaws they must be applied by the RAU.

CONTROLLING ACCESS

0509. The methods used to control access include sentries, fences or intruder proof perimeters. The RDA may be kept under observation by sentries, radar, closed circuit television (CCTV) or other surveillance devices. Where access to a RDA is by any road, track or path which is a public right of way and which cannot be effectively closed throughout the time that the hazard exists, sentries must be posted or access points kept under surveillance. Means must be available to ensure that firing can be stopped promptly when it is known that there has been unauthorised entry into the RDA. These measures must be laid down in Range SO. The duties and responsibilities of sentries and operators of surveillance devices must also be laid down in Range SO.

0510. On completion of firing the RDA must be cleared of any residual hazard before the RDA is opened to unprotected/unwarned persons.

FENCING

0511. In the context of marking, fences can be a useful way of delineating boundaries. They may help to control access by dissuading unauthorised persons from straying into hazardous areas and authorised persons from straying out of designated areas. Where a fence is used for this purpose it must be marked with appropriate signs and, at points where inadvertent intrusion is most likely, notices which explain the nature of the hazard.

0512. The RDA boundary must have signs to discourage unauthorised access and notices warning of the hazard when firing is in progress. A boundary fence may be an appropriate place to do this. One of the advantages of placing a demarcation fence on the range boundary rather than around the RDA is that it provides a buffer zone between the two allowing more time for the detection of intruders.

0513. Where authorised but unaccompanied civilians have access to the land between the range boundary and the RDA then a risk assessment must be carried out to determine whether both boundaries should be fenced and signed.

0514. Where the RDA extends into the sea it is normally impractical to mark an entire sea boundary with buoys. However, buoys can play a useful role where there are busy shipping lanes and can provide reference markers to identify when an incursion of the range boundary is about to take place.

0515. Closed Impact Areas must be enclosed with fencing suitable for preventing access. The fence must be marked with appropriate signs forbidding entry and notices explaining the hazard.

0516. Additional information concerning fences is given in JSP 403 Volume 2 Chapter 2.

FLAGS AND LIGHTS

0517. Red flags, or by night red lights, should be displayed as a warning of live firing so that at least one flag or light can easily be seen from any point on the range boundary. They should be displayed at least half an hour before firing and for the duration that any hazard exists. Through warning notices and signs it must be made clear to the general public that a hazard exists whilst the flags or lights are displayed. Flags and lights should not remain displayed after firing and when residual hazards have been removed unless byelaws or special circumstances require it. Where distances and/or terrain make it impracticable to display red flags or lights only for those periods when live firing is in progress they may be permanently displayed provided they are accompanied by warning signs and by notices explaining the circumstances.

0518. The use of red flags/lights with accompanying signs and notices is the accepted method of warning of a hazardous area. Where visibility is impaired consideration should be given to supplementing this warning with fencing and appropriate signs and notices. In extreme cases, such as in jungle or heavily forested terrain, where neither flags/lights nor fencing is a practicable option the most effective method of warning must be determined by a local risk assessment.

0519. Where the whole of the RDA is fenced and signed as a Closed Impact Area there will be no need to provide warning in the form of red flags or lights at times when live firing is taking place inside the RDA. In the case of a Closed Impact Area which is only a part of the RDA flags or red lights need not be displayed around the RDA once firing has ceased and the Closed Impact Area has been secured.

SIGNS AND NOTICES

0520. Where there is assessed to be a risk of unauthorised intrusion into the RDA the range boundary and all access points must be marked with permanent signs and warning notices and signs must be fixed to fences, barriers, gates and posts. This is particularly important where public footpaths or roads border the range boundary. Signs and warning notices must be positioned where they can easily be seen and read, away from potential obstructions such as growing foliage or gates which could obscure them. Signs and warning notices should be intervisible.

0521. Public warning signs to be used on MOD ranges are regulated by the HSW Act and the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations. These incorporate the requirements of the European Safety Signs Directive, which provides the standard, and the Statutory Instrument (SI). Examples of signs are shown in Volume II Chapter 2. The appropriate British Standards are to be used for their detailed manufacture. Outside the UK, MOD policy is to comply with the local or host nation's procedures on signs and sign posting; however, if the resulting level of safety is less than that which would be provided in the UK, additional signs may be necessary to warn British military personnel of any danger.

0522. All signs that do not meet requirements laid down in JSP 403 should be replaced as soon as practicable. To avoid confusion all old pattern signs on a range should be replaced at the same time. The local press and organisations which need to know the meaning of the signs are to be notified by the RAU, through Public Information/Public Relations/Media Operations outlets if appropriate, at the time of change.

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0523. Local Byelaws which restrict access to the range on a public right of way must be displayed on notice boards at all public access points.

0524. The definition of public rights of way is the responsibility of the local Highways Authority who will also hold the records and master map showing those rights of way that have been formally designated for public use. On MOD freehold land it is a MOD responsibility to waymark public rights of way. Advice on waymarking requirements can be obtained from DE.

MAPS

0525. For each range or range complex an estate map showing the extent of MOD freehold and leasehold land, overshooting rights and the location of range boundaries is to be maintained by the DE and made available to the RAU and the RAO when required.

0526. Care is to be taken to ensure that overprinted information on any RAU range and training area maps, such as range boundaries, danger areas, flags, barriers and signs, indicates their position on the ground.

0527. Close liaison must be maintained between the RAU, DE and Local Authority so that any changes to rights of way, access points and routes impinging on a RDA are reflected in the master and any overprinted maps without undue delay. The RAU is responsible for informing the Authorising HQ so that the MOD Form 904 and its attached documentation can be amended.

MAINTENANCE

0528. All fences, barriers, flagpoles and signs should be inspected at least once a month by the RAU to ensure that they are in place and are being kept in an acceptable condition to satisfactorily control access and provide adequate warning to the general public. Further detail on maintenance is at Chapter 7.