

**GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF  
THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON  
THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL  
WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE  
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO  
HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS**

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Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines

**Considerations relating to the sensitivity of the fuses of mines  
other than anti-personnel mines**

**Prepared by the Russian Federation**

1. The Russian Federation understands the concern of the international community at the risk posed to the civilian population by the sensitive nature of the fuses of mines other than anti-personnel ones (MOTAPMs).
2. In this connection the Russian Federation takes note of the important contribution to discussion of this problem made by the representatives of Germany and Romania.
3. At the same time, bearing in mind the important role played by MOTAPMs in the defensive potential of many States, the Russian Federation considers it necessary to take a well-considered position that would ensure balance between humanitarian and military factors.
4. Experience with MOTAPMs built up by the Russian armed forces shows that humanitarian concerns regarding the use of mines with different types of fuses are somewhat exaggerated.
5. First, such mines are as a rule emplaced in areas where the armoured and transport vehicles of the enemy are in operation, i.e. outside areas where the civilian population is normally located.

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6. Second, modern MOTAPMs are equipped with fuses which can classify the object of destruction with a probability exceeding 0.95. That is achieved by rating both the magnitude of the activation force, which amounts to over 1,000 N, and the nature of the activation force, in the case of mechanical pressure fuses, as well as a combination of signals from designated targets in the case of non-contact fuses.

7. Third, modern types of fuses, especially those for remotely emplaced mines, are equipped with self-destruction elements which are activated within a period of a few days. As a result, they do not constitute a danger for the civilian population after the end of combat operations.

8. Analysis of the information submitted by the delegation of Germany shows that, of the seven types of fuses, only one can constitute a danger for military and civilian personnel: the contact fuse activated by pressure sensors. However, even in the case of pressure sensors with a 500-1,000 N activation threshold, the safety coefficient is rather high.

9. The Russian delegation is ready to discuss, in the context of the problem of sensitivity, the use of mines with pin-detonating fuses that have a relatively low activation threshold, (15-210 N). It should be pointed out that such fuses are very rare nowadays. Those who develop fuses for landmines always seek to increase their selectiveness - i.e., the characteristics of the target sensor are selected in such a way that the explosion of the mine is triggered by a heavy armoured vehicle and not a light transport vehicle, still less a human being.

10. It must be borne in mind that each country has its own established national schools of fuse design, which are unique in many respects, as well as its own production capacity. Those who develop ammunition are guided by the standards applied in their countries, most of which differ considerably from the standards used in other countries. That has resulted in the appearance of a multitude of fuses which differ not only by their design but also by the physical principles of functioning. Consequently, regulating the parameters of MOTAPM fuses at the international level would certainly require an agreed method of assessing their sensitivity. I should like to recall that the proposals made by the Russian delegation with regard to the development of common approaches to the determination of a simpler parameter from the point of view of scientific-methodology and technical considerations - the reliability of self-destruction

and self-deactivation mechanisms - have not so far received support from our colleagues from other countries. However, in assessing fuse sensitivity it will be necessary to take into account not only amplitude characteristics but also the nature of the physical field created by the designated target, with due regard for the peculiarities of the physical principles of fuse operation - a more complicated undertaking.

We believe that under such circumstances, attempts to establish internationally approved requirements applying to the parameters of MOTAPM fuses are premature.

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