

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso Issue Paper # 03

AMMUNITON MANAGEMENT - WHITE PHOSPHUROUS

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Other; Crosscutting

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

A large quantity of white phosphorus was found during the MINUSMA liquidation operation. This is a highly toxic and polluting substance, the use of which can have long-term impacts on the environment and on communities. In addition, its transport requires special precautions, resulting in higher costs.

CONTEXT:

Chapter 1 - 1.6.1 page 6 of the United Nations Munitions Management Manual, first edition, January 2020 in English:

White Phosphorous (WP). This manual does not authorize T/PCCs to hold WP ammunition except munitions which may have minimal incendiary effects, such as illumination, tracers, smoke or signaling systems within caliber of small arms (within 26,5mm).

For seized/recovered WP ammunition, the PES for this ammunition shall be very near to a source of water or a water container large enough to fully fit the largest ammunition container should be on the site. The WP ammunition should be stored in an upright position with the base nearest the ground.

However, there is no explicit mention of the ban on white phosphorus in the COE manual.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

It is proposed that white phosphorus, which can cause long-term environmental pollution, not be accepted in peacekeeping operations.

We recommend the insertion of a new paragraph following paragraph 27 of Chapter 3, Annex A of the COE Manual, stating:

“White phosphorus will not be tolerated in peacekeeping operations due to its devastating effects on the environment and communities.”

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Refer to paragraph 3. DETAILED PROPOSAL of this IP.