



ESS

EXPLOSIVE SAFETY SUBMISSIONS



An Explosives Safety Submission (ESS) must be completed by anyone planning to conduct a Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) investigation and cleanup activities. The ESS must also be approved by the appropriate authorities before work begins. (See DoD 6055.9 STD, DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards.) The ESS is designed to provide an assessment of the explosives hazards likely to be encountered during the implementation of the selected response action. It includes information from previous studies, historical records, and the work plan for the response hazards likely to be encountered during implementation of the selected response action. Site investigative activities, such as site visits, surface sampling, and engineering studies are permitted prior to ESS approval to generate site characterization data for the submission. These activities do require a work plan and a site-specific safety plan.

ESS CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

- Brief description of the site, historical usage, and reasons for the munitions investigation, including the scope of response activities
- Maps of the munitions response area (MRA), munitions response sites (MRS), relevant adjacent properties, the region where the MRA is located, and other factors to be considered during the response
- Information on the Explosive Safety Quantity-Distance including potential hazard areas and arcs from explosive materials, maps showing MRA/MRS, munitions and explosives of concern storage locations, explosive soils identified through soil sampling, and MEC processing locations
- Amounts and types of MEC expected based on historical research and site sampling
- Anticipated start date for the MEC response action
- Naturally occurring phenomena (e.g., erosion, frost heave, tidal changes) that could cause migration or exposure of MEC, and provisions that will be made for continued surveillance and managing of the area

For more information

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- Descriptions of the capabilities of detection equipment relative to the amount of removal needed for the anticipated future land use
- Transportation, storage, and disposition plans if recovered MEC cannot be destroyed on-site
- Descriptions of environmental, ecological, cultural, and other considerations that impact response activities
- Summary of explosive ordnance disposal, technical escort unit, or contractor support that may be necessary
- Summary of any land-use controls or long-term management to be placed on the property to manage residual risks
- Description of activities for addressing public education on safety issues during and following the response
- Stakeholder involvement and concerns in selection of the response
- Description of alternative actions to address potential field issues
- Procedures for stopping work on sites when chemical warfare material is discovered during a conventional munitions response

At the conclusion of a munitions response, the installation or agency executing the response will prepare an after-action report to each office that reviewed the safety submission. The after-action report will list the type, location, and depth of MEC found during the munitions response.

The U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES) and Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) approval are required of the appropriate submission before

- placement of explosives on a munitions response site
- any intentional physical contact with MEC or chemical agent (regardless of configuration)
- the conduct of intrusive activities in areas known or suspected to contain MEC or chemical agent (regardless of configuration)

The DDESB's role in approving ESSs varies, depending on whether the MEC area is a Formerly Used Defense

Sites project (FUDS), a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-related project involving property disposal, or a project at an active facility. The safety submission should be submitted at least 60 days prior to the planned munitions response action.

After approval, the response action may be modified based on actual conditions encountered. A modification that changes approved site activities, risk assessments, planned reuse, land use restrictions, or hazard controls requires an amendment to the ESS. The amendments are routed through command channels in the same manner as the initial ESS submission.

An ESS is not required for military explosive ordnance disposal emergency response actions (on DoD or non-DoD property) or for normal maintenance operations conducted on operational ranges.

