

The storage bunkers must meet a number of stringent standards with regard to over-pressure stability, fragment protection of walls and doors, gas-tightness in case of accidental release of toxic chemicals, chemical agent detection and alarm systems. Filtered air ventilation and automated fire-fighting installations including sprinklers are also needed to ensure occupational safety and the protection of the environment. In addition, a basin for the collection of waste water in eventual decontamination or fire-fighting missions is required.

The bunker, with its separate compartments, is structured in a way which keeps the various types of munitions segregated. Walls of adequate height are installed in order to prevent the propagation of eventual explosions to other munition staples.

The storage facility is subject to frequent inspections in accordance with safety and security regulations issued for its operation.

Plans for early warning and eventual evacuation of the population living in surrounding areas have to be established. These plans must be continuously updated taking into account changing results of risk analyses. Although very unlikely, the release of toxic chemicals as a result of explosions, fires or direct impact of an airplane cannot totally be ruled out.

3.5 Preparation of OCW for demilitarization ("demil")

The munitions excavated from the ground are mostly covered with dirt and rough layers due to corrosion. For this reason, prior to further treatment, they have to be cleaned using a high-pressure water jet.

Since the internal structure of recovered OCW differs considerably from item to item, x-raying of each of them individually is absolutely crucial, followed by a thorough evaluation of the negative film produced, which includes as accurate measurements as possible of all relevant features shown on the film. Only then are the EOD experts in the position to determine the detailed demil route, which is pertinent to the specific OCW item.

In order to reduce the internal pressure of volatile liquid or gaseous chemical fillings, the munition items are frozen in a final step prior to demil. Thus, agent spillings out of the shell can be avoided or at least limited when being opened.