

ARTICLE 5bis: PROHIBITION OF NON-DETECTABLE MINES

ISSUE: The major issue is which mines will be required to be detectable - APLs, AT mines or both. The minor issue is what constitutes detectability, is it minimum metal content, and if so is it by weight (minimum of 8 grams of irremovable iron in a single coherent mass) or by percentage?

BACKGROUND:

Under the current convention, there is no need for either APLs or AT mines to be detectable. The trend has been towards less and less metal content, to the extent that some landmines are virtually undetectable by electromagnetic means. This makes removal of such mines an extremely difficult, hazardous and expensive task.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada supports detectability requirements for both APLs and AT mines. If application to APLs is the only thing achievable, Canada should attempt to keep the extension to AT mines as an issue for the next RevCon. The suggested metal content of 8 grams is acceptable.

POSITIONS OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS:

On the major issue the USA, UK, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Mexico, Australia and Switzerland support detectability requirements on both APLs and AT mines. France, Italy, Russia and Finland do not support detectability for AT mines. China supports it for APLs and perhaps could support it for AT mines.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

The major issue (detectability) may not be resolved in the near future but the minor one (minimum metal content) is more technical in nature and should be resolvable.