

Background

INSARAG is a success story. We identify ourselves through the worldwide minimum standards, the common processes and the quality of our response. However, this quality must be ensured in the long term and continuously improved.

To ensure quality assurance, INSARAG introduced in 2005 the INSARAG External Classification and Re-Classifications (IEC/R) system. The IEC/R process is described in the INSARAG Guidelines, Volume II, Manual C (INSARAG External Classification and Reclassification) and reviewed and adapted every five years within the Guidelines Review Process (GRG).

Nevertheless, quality assurance does not stop with the USAR teams, it starts with the quality of the mentors, the TL Classifiers and the Classifiers. Only then can we credibly enforce this high standard IEC/R system and maintain our quality standards. But it is also about compliance with the minimum standards set, not only in the field but also in training and in the IEC/R process.

The IEC/R Review WG was established in 2019 after an external IEC/R review of the processes was conducted. On 26 May 2020 the ISG endorsed this new WG.

The COVID-19 pandemic 2020 to 2022 disrupted the work of the WG. The online meetings proved not to be the right work platform for a young WG. In addition, most of the members of the WG were transferred to other positions in their home countries and had to leave the WG. The WG currently consists of the two co-chairs, Annika Coll (SP) and David Sochor (SWI), and is looking for new qualified and experienced members to adapt the IEC/R system to the new challenges and to maintain its credibility as a quality assurance tool.

It goes without saying that the IEC/R Review WG must work closely with the other WGs, in particular the Guidelines Review Group (GRG) and the Training Working Group (TWG).

Work accomplished

- Review and update of the classifiers' roster.
- Review of the Global IEC/R Review Report recommendations, identifying priority tasks/focal points.
- Revised guidance for nominating Classifiers (Policy, Operational, TL Focal Points) and updated classifier application forms.
- The WG was actively involved in the two AARs on EQ response deployment Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. At the TL meeting in Singapore and AEME meeting in Doha, the deployment experiences made were compared with the IEC/R process in break outs with all participants. The comments were noted.

Way ahead

- Identify and appoint new members to the WG and review the TORs.
- Validate the experience gained at the two AARs and presentation at the TL Meeting.
- Breakouts with participants at the TL Meeting on possible lessons learned.
- Preparation of a global consultation on the LLs.
- Revise the process of IEC/R checklist update
- Preparation of the status of work for the ISG on 7 May 2024 in Geneva.