



Defence
Safety Authority

DSA 03.OME Part 3 DCOP 313: Defence Code of Practice (DCOP) and Guidance Notes for Ranges

Fieldcraft Training Areas (FTA)



Version Record

Version 1.2

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Version changes: See amendment table

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Preface

Requests for Change

1. Proposed changes, recommendations, or amendments to DOSR Regulations and Guidance can be submitted to the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team:

Email Address: dsa-dosr-prg@mod.gov.uk

Postal Address: Juniper #5004, Level 1, Wing 4, Abbey Wood North, Bristol, BS34 8QW

2. Any post and grammar change proposals can be approved or rejected by the DOSR without involvement of the associated Working Group.

3. Technical change proposals should be submitted to the associated Working Group for review and approval or rejection.

4. When incorporating changes, care is to be taken to maintain coherence across regulations.

5. Changes effecting Risk to Life will be published immediately. Other changes will be incorporated as part of routine reviews.

Review Process

6. The DOSR team will ensure OME Regulations remain fit for purpose by conducting regular reviews through the DOSR Governance Committees, consulting with MOD Stakeholders and other Defence Regulators as necessary on interfaces and where there may be overlaps of responsibility.

Further Advice and Feedback

7. For further information about any aspect of this document, or questions not answered within the subsequent sections, or to provide feedback on the content, contact the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team.

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Amendment Record

Version	Section	Para	Amendment Summary	Agreed	Date
1.0	all	all	Document first published	DOSR TL	Sep 2022
1.1	Reg 313	-	FTA categories 1 and 3 updated	Pubs- 1b	Feb 2024
1.1	DCOP 313	GM	Table updated and various text updated throughout	Pubs- 1b	Feb 2024
1.2	all	all	Reformatted in line with DSA accessibility requirements.	Pubs- 1b	May 2026
1.2	DCOP 313	11	Renamed to MOD Form 1932 (FTA) – Safe Activity Assurance Form.	Pubs- 1b	May 2026
1.2	DCOP 313	12-14	New paragraphs added for RPAS / UAS, International Courses on HN FTA and HN conduct of OME activity with UK SP utilising HN / PN FTAs.	Pubs- 1b	May 2026
1.2	DCOP 313	15.g, 16	Wording amended at para 15.g and TLB replaced with Military Commands / Defence Organisation in para 16.	Pubs- 1b	May 2026

DSA 03.OME Part 3 Regulation 313

Fieldcraft Training Area (FTA)

1. All FTAs (formerly known as Dry Training Areas) shall have in place the necessary requirement from the list below (appropriate to FTA category) before any training involving Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (OME) is undertaken:

- a. An FTA **shall** be licensed with the OME Regulator.
- b. An FTA **shall** have a nominated Administering Unit (AU).
- c. A Site-Specific Risk Assessment (RA) is to be undertaken.
- d. Site-Specific SOs are in place for the FTA.
- e. The use of the FTA **shall** be pre-booked and recorded.
- f. Appropriate control measures **shall** be put in place for the duration of the training.
- g. Provision to clear the FTA of all OME as reasonably practical and leave it in a safe condition after use as prescribed in Standing Orders.
- h. Procedures for Disposal are to be in place.

Table 1 – Categories of FTAs

Ser	Category	Descriptor
1	Category 1	An FTA where: - Blank / MRTS / ammunition / pyrotechnics are used. - OME (including BATSIM) that will require disposal charge action should it fail to function.
2	Category 2	An FTA where: - Blank / MRTS / ammunition / pyrotechnics are used. - OME that will NOT require disposal charge action should it fail to function.
3	Category 3	A Permanent FTA where no OME is used ¹ . Non - OME activities are conducted and listed within the schedule of MOD Form 1925.

¹ The purpose of registering Cat 3 FTA is to hold a central MOD database which can be used by other defence regulators to provide regulation and guidance for other non-OME activities.

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Definition of an FTA Safe Place

2. This permits the use of blank and static pyrotechnic natures as well as limited quantities of explosives when used as battle simulation (BATSIM) or for destroying blinds. It precludes the use of most projected natures unless specifically permitted in the relevant FTA SO²

Categories of FTA

3. The categories used for FTAs are summarised as follows:

Ser (a)	Type (b)	Process (c)	Remarks (d)
1	Category 1 & 2	a. FTA Approving Officer ³ and FTA Administering Unit (AU) all established. b. Allocated DOSR FTA number. c. Risk Assessment (RA) and FTA Standing Orders (SO) in place and current. d. Documentation in FTA file held by AU. e. Inspection regime Monthly (AU), Annual (2 LoDA), Triennial (3 LoDA). f. AU maintains RA, SO's NOTAMs and up-to-date mapping etc.	FTA. OF4 can sign MOD Form 1925 / 1926. Monthly inspection by AU. Annual Inspection by Formation 2 LoDA. Triennial Inspection by RSAT 3 LoDA.
2	Category 3	a. MOD Form 1925 submitted and registered with DOSR. b. Schedule listed all non-OME activities. c. No inspection conducted. d. No requirement for AO digital signature. e. Only applies to permanent Cat 3 FTA.	DOSR registered.

Site-Specific Risk Assessment

4. Although the location, size and usage of each FTA may vary, all must be subjected to a site-specific risk assessment, which will identify risks to the public and / or those training on the area.

a. Employment of hazardous OME, for example:

² Exceptions will be listed in SOs but may include natures such as hand thrown and projected pyrotechnics (e.g., smoke grenades and para illumination), the firing of low velocity training munitions (e.g. UGL Prac, MRTS etc.), some low velocity munitions (e.g. Riot Gun, Shotgun etc.) and the safe firing of certain projectiles (e.g. Arty, Mors) into range impact area.

³ For a RAF administered FTA, the Approving Officer (an appointed Activity Officer) and the process to licence and assure FTA, is directed in AP8000.

- (1) Safety distances with regard to military and civilians, particularly at FTA fringes.
 - (2) Other potential to harm civilians (e.g. trip flares).
 - (3) Air Danger Height (ADH) for projected OME.
 - (4) Fire Hazards.
 - (5) Noise considerations.
 - (6) WDA Templates.
- b. UXO.
- (1) Actions on finding.
 - (2) Warning Signage.
- c. Fire Hazards.
- (1) Prevention.
 - (2) Action on fire.
- d. Identification of the limits of the FTA boundaries (including signage) and consideration of OME safety distances for civilians.
- e. Public access including whether permissive or by right, permanent or temporary, and over an area or on a route.
- f. Mandatory measures detailed in this document (user recce, sweep up etc).
5. The mitigations for the risks identified may include the use of flags, barriers, signs or even sentries.

Establishing Safe Place

6. The mitigations identified in the site-specific risk assessment, should assist with the establishment of a safe place with regards to signage etc. If the FTA is surrounded by local tenants, then there may be a lesser requirement for signage. If the local community have rights of access and / or are constantly entering the FTA, where permitted, appropriate signage should be displayed warning of any dangers.

User Recce

7. It is mandatory for a user to conduct a recce, which is to be recorded in an EASP / ESD or Activity Plan for any training facility on which they intend to train. The purpose is to identify if the area meets the training requirement and with AU, identify if it is a shared facility with restrictions. The user should be reminded that they are to read the training area orders prior to conducting their recce. Applying the same principle with regards to live firing, if the user regularly exercises on a given FTA and is familiar with the requirement, they can forego the recce with the written authority of

the AU. However, they are to be reminded that if an incident occurs due to a lack of knowledge on the FTA, they will be held responsible.

De-confliction

8. In many cases, an FTA can cope with more than one user at a time. De-confliction is required both in the planning stage by the AU and then in the delivery stage between the users in order to ensure that the Units' Training Objectives are compatible.

Booking On and Off the FTA

9. Aus are to have an established process to book on and off the FTA.

AU Monitoring

10. During training, where possible, the AU will monitor the FTA to ensure that the users training activities are not compromising the safe place, that they are being conducted in accordance with allocations and to assist the users with de-confliction. Most FTAs are heavily used, therefore monitoring of the condition of the FTA is a priority to ensure that damage is kept to a minimum and that users clear away any debris / accountable ammunition salvage (brass, expended pyrotechnics, packaging). This will also contribute to the sustainability of the area.

MOD Form 1932 (FTA) - Safe Activity Assurance Form

11. AUs are responsible for checking MOD Form 1932 (FTA) - Safe Activity Assurance Form for all activity on an FTA to ensure Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (OME) Danger Areas remain entirely within the boundaries of the permitted FTAs. OME is not to be used in such a manner that would allow its Danger Area to extend beyond the authorised FTA.

Remote Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) / Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS)

12. **Civilian.** Where a civilian RPAS / UAS is flown on a MOD FTA with or without involvement of any service or MOD personnel, the operation is to be in accordance with the appropriate Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulation or MAA Regulatory Publications (MRP) if applicable.

International Courses incorporating OME on Host Nation (HN) FTA

13. The safe persons, as UK representatives or FTA safety staff, will be military personnel / cadet forces who are competent to participate as exercising troops on FTAs controlled by HN ECOs. When the risks are assessed to be As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and tolerable, they should be documented in Technical Agreements, therefore not requiring full DOSR regulatory oversight.

Host Nation (HN) conduct of OME activity with UK SP utilising HN / Partner Nation (PN) FTAs

14. Where UK SP are utilising OME alongside HN / PN that are comparable to that of the UK SSW & are deemed ALARP and tolerable and the HN / PN are Planning & Conducting in accordance with HN / Service publications. The HN will continue to

take sole responsibility for safe place of the FTA facility and danger areas. Any such FTA shall as a minimum conform to the safety requirements laid down in this document. The UK Lead (appropriately qualified UK SP) shall produce a RA and Annual FTA Inspection using MOD Form 1928 of the FTA as per UK policy to be considered ALARP. This shall be endorsed by the AO and then sent to DOSR. Any factors outside of the SSW, will require an AOR waiver as appropriate.

FTA File

15. Each AU is responsible for the production of an FTA file for each FTA / FTA Complex, which as a minimum shall contain:

- a. Copies of all relevant proceedings / certificates.
- b. Reports.
- c. Maps.
- d. Monthly / Annual / Independent reports.
- e. Waivers if applicable.
- f. Correspondence relating to authorisation.
- g. Workplace Inspections.

Accident / Incidents

16. Users are to follow the accident / incident procedures laid out in JSP 375 Part 2 Chapter 16 and Military Commands / Defence Organisations / EO relevant publications. Although the user retains control and responsibility for an incident, the AU Control Room can assist by informing the users of local procedures and providing support during the control of an incident.

Out of Bounds

17. There may be some areas that are out of bounds to training personnel; these should be clearly identified. OOB areas may include SSSIs, scheduled monuments, damaged buildings areas detailed in the sustainability plan. OOB areas are to be briefed to the users, prior to activities commencing.

Blinds / UXO

18. Procedures must be in place to deal with blinds and be included in EASPs / ESDs / Activity Plan. The AU must be informed of any blinds that the unit are unable to deal with or any UXO from previous training activities found on the FTA. AUs are to satisfy themselves that the blind / UXO procedures in place are compliant with the relevant service publication and are realistic for the FTA in question. FTA SOs must specify who is responsible for requesting EOD support if required.

Fire Hazard

19. Consideration must be given to the fire hazards associated with activity on the FTA. Measures must be put in place to prevent and react to wildfires, and these must be promulgated to users, including those already deployed on the FTA.

Digging

20. FTA Standing Orders and / or maps must highlight in detail any limitations on digging.

Authorised Public Access

21. Public access may be permitted to all or part of an FTA either as a right or by permissive access. SOs must highlight the parts of the FTA where public access is permitted, and Users must ensure that public safety is a major consideration in exercise planning and associated mitigations put in place. Particular emphasis must be placed on enforcing OME safety distances for civilians particularly near FTA boundaries.

Unauthorised Public Access

22. Measures to prevent unauthorised public access might include social and local media messaging, community engagement, and physical measures such as signage and barriers. Measures to react to unauthorised public access must be in place and all incursions and prevented incursions should be recorded with those that fall within the Serious Incident criteria being reported.

Air Operations

23. Air operations must be considered during the allocation process: if the air booking process differs from the ground one, this must be highlighted to the user. In line with existing policy on communications with the air platform, the AU must have a communications plan in place. Users must be aware of any activities that might impact on air safety such as the use of projected natures and the requirement for air sentries must be considered.

Third Party Income Generation

24. Third Party Income Generation requires as much co-ordination and confirmation of the Safe System of Work being in place, as live firing.

Inspection Regime

25. The following will give guidance to the AU staff conducting monthly inspections:

- a. Leftover blinds.
- b. Leftover OME.
- c. Cleanliness.
- d. Damage to boundaries.
- e. Damage to infrastructure.

- f. Infringement of digging policy.
- g. Consolidated number of incursions.
- h. Serviceability of sign / barriers / notices.
- i. Currency of documentation, does it remain site specific?