



Guideline for the arrangement and evaluation

IRO SD MRT for USAR Teams

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CHANGES

| Date | Changes |
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| 17.9.2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Validation and repetition |

The respective last changes are made visible on the side!

This guideline replaces the guideline for the execution of the IRO rubble MRTs.

For simplicity only the masculin form of nouns will be used.

Table of contents

- **Introduction to the IRO SD MRT**
 - General Information
 - Requirements for the arrangement of the IRO SD MRT
- **Information for the participators**
 - Requirements for participation at the IRO SD MRT
 - Participators at the IRO RDC
 - Participators at the Base of Operation
 - Schedule for the participators
 - Veterinarian emergency
 - Departure of the participators
- **SD MRT testing area**
 - Distraction at the SD MRT testing area
 - Tactical situation at the SD MRT
 - Evaluation of the search work
 - Evaluation of the minor subjects
- **IRO SD MRT test administration**
 - Chief evaluator
 - On site facilitator
 - Organizing NRO
 - Evaluator
 - SD MRT test results
 - SD MRT validation and repetition
- **Assignment of tasks at the SD MRT**
- **Evaluation at the SD MRT**
 - Tactical situation
 - Monitoring
 - Search work
 - Mobility
 - Independence
 - Alerting
 - Overall impression
- **Evaluation of the group commanders at the SD MRT**
- **Requirements for the acceptance of an NRO SD MRT**

Introduction to the IRO SD MRT

- The IRO Search Dog Mission Readiness Test (SD MRT) conforms to the suggested INSARAG SD MRT.
- According to INSARAG Guidelines the term search dog is used for rescue dogs, which belong to USAR Teams. The INSARAG SD MRT uses the term “canine” for search dogs.
- The SD MRT is oriented on the work of a search dog team at an international USAR mission.
- The execution of the search effort, systematic work and indication will be determined by an evaluation system.
- The performance of the dog and dog handler as well as the harmonic team performance will be assessed.
- Furthermore all search dog teams have to indicate at least 70 % of the hidden persons during the SD MRT.
- At least seven, in each case 20 minute long search works have to be completed within 2 days at day and night during the IRO MRT.

General information

- The IRO is the Host of the IRO SD MRT, the department of deployment is responsible for it and assigns an NRO with the arrangement of the event. Every NRO can apply for the organization of an IRO MRT, provided they have suitable test areas in their area of responsibility.
- The IRO SD MRT is always held by the current SD MRT version of the “INSARAG Search Dog Working Group (SDWG)”. Therefore there might be changes compared to the last IRO SD MRT and both the participants and the organizing NRO have to note and follow them.
- All participants and the organizing NRO will receive the current version via the IRO office.
- The respective IRO SD MRT can take place under international observation, which supervises the compliance of the INSARAG criteria.

Requirements for the arrangement of the IRO SD MRT

- An IRO SD MRT can only be held, when at least 10 dog handlers with passed RH T-B according to IPO-R test or with an IEC certification according to national regulations participate.
- Should the number of 10 participating teams not be reached by the application deadline, the IRO SD MRT will be cancelled. There have to be at least 27 RHT applications for the arrangement of an IRO SD MRT with 2 main groups (4 event days). Otherwise the SD MRT has to be reduced to 1 main group (2 event days) with maximum 18 RHT. The assigned NRO can also suggest a date for the arrangement of the SD MRT via the IRO office.
- The planning of the assigned NRO should include a weekend (also if there are more than 2 event days) during the event, if possible. Diversions from this have to be coordinated with the department of deployment in time. The search works will be assessed at day and night, so a shift work for the helpers has to be planned, if applicable.

Information for the participants

Requirements for participation

- For IRO NRO members: passed the T-B test according to IPO-R.
- For INSARAG USAR Teams: a passed national mission test.
- The dog mustn't be older than 8 years at the first SD MRT participation.
- The dog handler has to own a valid passport (minimum 6 months valid) and has to be vaccinated for the stay in the organizing country. Contact local health departments for more information.
- The search work requires a physical ability to accomplish search tasks in challenging terrain for both the search dog and the dog handler.
- Suitable safety clothes (helmet, mission jacket, mission pants, safety boots, gloves, lighting).
- Equipment for provision and accommodation at the BoO.
- Group commanders have to be able to communicate in English or alternatively German. Group commanders, who can speak neither English nor German will not be invited to the IRO SD MRT. Apart from that the same requirements apply, that a dog handler must fulfil.

Participants at the IRO Reception and Departure Centre / RDC

- The IRO SD MRT begins with the arrival and registration of the participants at the IRO Reception and Departure Centre / RDC.
- All participants arrive at the latest in the evening of the day before the designated judging day, through the IRO RDC.
- The RDC can be situated directly at an airport or other places. The exact place of the IRO RDC has to be published in time.
- The registration of the participants is carried out at the RDC and after that the participants will be relocated to the Base of Operation with local means of transport.
- The participating NRO is responsible for the transport of the participants to the IRO RDC.
- An IRO representative carries out the equipment check at the IRO RDC.
- Only participants with complete equipment will be relocated to the Base of Operation.
- Deficient equipment of the participants (personal safety clothes, provision or accommodation) can lead to disqualification of the participating team.
- An assigned veterinarian carries out the veterinarian check of the participating dogs at the area of the RDC.

Participants at the Base of Operation

- After inspection and registration of the participants at the RDC they will be relocated to the Base of Operation.
- The transport of all participants between the RDC and the BoO is carried out with transport vehicles of the national organizer.
- All vehicles, that have been brought with the participants have to be parked at a designated parking lot near the RDC.
- The participants are not allowed to drive with their own vehicles to the Base of Operations.
- The provision and accommodation of the participants at the BoO have to be organized by the participants themselves.
- At the BoO the participants have to set up their accommodation and provision at an assigned site.
- Motor aggregates, such as generators, which the participants have brought with them, have to be set up at a sufficient distance to the next tent (noise abatement).

Schedule for the participants

- There is no schedule for the participants
- All participants have to be operational ready within 15 minutes after the prompt is given. The defined 4-hour resting period is exempt from that.

Veterinarian emergency

- The organizing NRO has to set up a veterinarian clinic on site, which is available for veterinarian emergencies during the MRT. Furthermore the organizing NRO has to submit the contact details of the IRO office to the clinic. The financial concerns will be coordinated directly through the IRO office.
- If a dog must be hospitalized to the clinic by a veterinarian, the IRO covers the costs of the agreed clinic. In all other cases the dog handler must come up for the financial costs.
- In case of a veterinarian hospitalization the chief evaluator has to be informed as soon as possible.
- A detailed accident report of the search dog handler and the evaluators of the work site, where the accident took place, has to be sent to the IRO office. The chief evaluator gives a statement to the accident.

Departure of the participants

- The participants are in charge of their journey back home.

SD MRT – testing area

- The MRT will be carried out in at least three different search areas.
- The size of the single search areas will be between 800 m² and 2000 m².
- At least 2 work sites have to feature a height difference of at least 2 m within the search area.
- The criteria of the work sites, which result from the current version of the INSARAG SDWG suggestions, have to be noted and complied with.
- Possible search areas are:
 - Rubble complexes in civil- or emergency management centres: rubble is concrete structures, bricking, rocks and wood (also mixed). Dangerous areas like glass, sharp metal edges, crash sites etc. have to be removed, if possible, or secured.
 - Concrete / Wood recycling complexes
 - Demolition objects – at least 90 % of the search area must be rubble complexes or demolition objects with rubble elements.
 - **Important: Intact buildings without rubble structure are not accepted!**
- There have to be at least 6 hiding possibilities at the respective work sites.

Hiding persons

- The number of the hiding persons, which have to be found, is always undefined.
- The dog handler can end the work prematurely, if he assured himself that he and his dog searched the whole search area.
- The hiding persons have to be hidden in a way, that they cannot be seen by the dog handler or the dog while searching.
- At 4 of the hiding persons (minimum) there has to be at least 1,5 m debris or other material between the dog and the hiding person.
- The hiding persons should be in the hiding places for at least 15 minutes before the dog begins his search.

Distraction

- During the search there should be a distraction available at 2 search spots at least.
- The dog must not be distracted during his work.
- The following possibilities of distractions are available for choosing:
 - Noise: I.E. industrial noise chainsaw, air hammer, aggregate, generator or similar. Recordings of such noises can also be used as noise source.
 - Eatables, clothes, all kinds of garbage. These objects have to be placed, so that they are unreachable by the dog. They should also be placed in a way, that the evaluators can tell if the dog indicates these objects or a hiding person.
 - Persons, who linger in the search area alone or in groups. The chief evaluator, along with the evaluators, decides prior to the beginning of the search, if the persons must vacate the rubble, should they be told to do so by the dog handler.

Tactical situation at the SD MRT

- At all work sites, the dog handler receives a written or oral (in English or German) general tactical situation prior to the beginning of the search work. This can also be in the form of a drawing or through an INSARAG Marking Box.
- The dog handler has to ask questions to the evaluator, thereupon come to a mission decision, share it with the evaluators and then execute the mission decision.
- The time needed to solve the tactical situation is part of the search time.

Evaluation of the search work

- REDOG (CH), AFDRU (A) and the IRO use a shared (developed by REDOG) evaluation system. Assessed will be via a checklist for evaluators and via a valuation key for the MRT. The evaluation sheets from all work sites will be assessed in a valuation system and the end result will be determined out of it. On average, an evaluation, which is sufficient according to the valuation key, must be archived.
- Independent from the final score, at least 70 % of the hiding persons have to be found. Below this quote of 70% no mission readiness can be issued.
- The final evaluation says “passed” or “not passed”. In a border case the chief evaluator, after a hearing of the evaluators, decides, if the team will get the mission readiness or not.
- False indications are separately evaluated and are connected to the number of the hiding persons.

Evaluation of the minor subjects

- The subjects First Aid Human, First Aid Dog, roping exercise with the dog and INSARAG basic knowledge will be tested by experts theoretically and practically. The participants may use the INSARAG guidelines.
- At least 50 % of the minor subjects have to be passed. In case of not passing these tests, they have to be repeated in the next year.
- A valuation of the condition in the form of a 10 km march will be held before a search or between a search of work sites B or C. This can also be a march at night.

IRO SD MRT test administration

- The test administration consists of:
 - Chief evaluator
 - IRO office
 - On site facilitator
 - Evaluator
 - Organizing NRO

Decisions by the test administration are definite. In case of different opinions, the chief evaluator decides at last instance. The test administration has the following tasks:

1. Chief evaluator

- The IRO spokesperson for the department of deployment or one of his representatives is the chief evaluator of the test administration and organizes the MRT with the help of the IRO office and the organizing NRO.
- Controls in connection with the IRO office, that all participants meet the requirements for participation at the MRT.
- Assigns in connection with the on site facilitators the search areas and hiding spots.
- Chooses the evaluators and experts for the minor subjects and group commander evaluators from the official IRO evaluator list.
- Distributes the evaluators to the different search areas.
- Assigns the general tactical situation.
- Decides, which distraction in which form at which work site will be used.
- Decides, if it is necessary, that a demonstration by a mission ready search dog needs to be carried out prior to the first search.
- Makes sure that the evaluation will be according to the guidelines of the IRO and the IN-SARAG.
- Decides, when a team has to cancel the test. This can happen, if the dog behaves aggressively or if the veterinarian detects a health problem at the dog at the beginning or during the test. Should the dog behave aggressively at a work site toward the hiding or other persons, the evaluators decide, if the team may continue their work at the work site.
- Decides, after hearing of the evaluators, if a team may continue the test or if the team remains mission ready.
- If the evaluators have different opinions, the chief evaluator acts as an advisor and, after hearing both sides, makes the final decision.
- Organizes and conducts the evaluator meetings.
- Makes the final decision, after the evaluation, if a team is mission ready or not.

2. IRO Office

- Establishes the announcement, in connection with the department of deployment.
- Accepts the applications and established the participation list.
- Makes sure that the test dates are correctly registered and that they are forwarded in time to the department of deployment and the organizing NRO.
- Assigns all data of the participators to the evaluation system and establishes all evaluation sheets and certificates for the test administration.
- Makes sure that, during the MRT, all results from the evaluation sheets will be assigned to the evaluation system.
- Makes sure that the mission list of the IRO will be updated after the MRT.
- Staffs the MRT – RDC and regulates all administrative tasks.

3. On site facilitators

- Prepare, in connection with the organizing NRO, the work sites 2 to 3 days prior.
- Make sure that the size of the single search areas are between 800 m² and 2000 m².
- Make sure that at least 2 work sites feature a height difference of at least 2 m.
- Make sure that at least 2 search areas comply with an average difficult rubble situation in a mission.
- Prepare an individual situation description in form of a written scenario, a drawing with the most vital information or with the help of an INSARAG Marking Box for every work site.
- Make sure, that the hidings are exchanged in time.
- Support the evaluators.

4. Evaluators

- 2 trained evaluators of the IRO / AFDRU / REDOG assess the work of the search dog teams per work site.
- One half of an evaluation team consists of IRO-judges and mission experienced leadership personalities (Team leader, group commanders, practice leaders).
- Every evaluator has to participate in the evaluator training in the same year, in which he is designated as an evaluator at the SD MRT.
- Every evaluator fills out an evaluator sheet for every team and every search.
- Grades below 3 generally have to be reasoned.
- The evaluators have to be present at the evaluator meeting.

5. Organizing NRO

- Establishes, in accordance with the border schedule of the IRO SD MRT, the organisational schedule. The execution of this schedule can be adjusted to the local circumstances and conditions. The respective concept has to be discussed with the spokesperson of deployment and has to be presented to the IRO office for approval. The organisational schedule has to enable a feedback by the evaluators for the participants with a length of maximum 5 minutes.
- Makes sure that the evaluation will be according to the guidelines of the IRO and the INSARAG.
- Makes sure that the IRO office gets all necessary information in time.
- Makes sure that the necessary infrastructure is available.
- Is responsible for the accommodation of the test administration, in accordance with the IRO office.
- Provides the work sites, the area for a BoO and rooms for a RDC / OSOCC.
- Provides a sufficient number of hiding persons.
- Provides an instructor from the area of mountain rescue service, provided they comply with the national regulations.
- Is responsible for the catering of the test administration at the work sites (also at night).
- Is responsible for the transport of the participants and the test administration.
- Provides a veterinarian / emergency service for the complete duration of the MRT, who has to remain on the MRT testing area.

MRT test results

- At the end only the positive evaluated participants will get the end result “mission ready” in form of a certificate.
- After every IRO SD MRT the department of deployment will conduct a general analysis to work out improvements and will provide them for the participating NROs.

Validation and repetition

- The certificate “mission ready” is valid for three years. A repetition of the SD MRT within these three years has no consequence concerning the allocation of funds from sponsor’s donations.
- A Rubble B test according to IPO-R or a SD MRT according to INSARAG SDWG criteria has to be passed in every year in between.
- From the calendar year, in which the mission ready search dog finishes his 10th year of life, the team has to participate in the MRT every year.

Assignment of tasks at the IRO MRT

- Scenario for the IRO MRT is generally a recent strong earthquake resulting in a lot of destroyed buildings.
- All participants of the SD MRT represent an international rescue team of the community of states of the INSARAG USAR system.
- Search mission at the SD MRT is to find as many survivors as possible at different work sites with different sizes and difficulty levels within 20 minutes.
- The search dog handler has the task to guide and direct the search dog in order to solve the presented tactical situation within these 20 minutes.
- The search dog handler has to use his search dog in a way so the mission success – finding all survivors – can be generally achieved within 20 minutes.
- At a work site a rotation search consisting of three to maximum four consecutive search works with a pause of 10 minutes respectively is carried out.
- The search dog handler has to work with his search dog intensively, has to read him, support him, as well as motivate him and has to forward the information he gathered after the search works to the evaluators.
- At the SD MRT the search dog handler has to demonstrate, that he can behave tactically correct at, atop or in a work site.
- Generally the search dog handler is not limited in his liberty of action at a SD MRT. If dangers result from the tactical situation, which prohibit the dog handler to enter the work site, the dog handler has to recognize it independently and adjust his tactical situation.

Evaluation at the IRO SD MRT

REDOG (CH), AFDRU (A) and the IRO use a shared (developed by REDOG) evaluation system. Assessed will be via a checklist for evaluators and via a valuation key for the MRT. The evaluation sheets from all work sites will be assessed in a valuation system and the end result will be determined out of it.

The evaluation system of the IRO SD MRT consists of the following criteria:

- **General evaluation (Team evaluation)**
 - Tactical situation, system work and guidance
 - Monitoring
 - Evaluation of the search work
 - Evaluation of the mobility
 - Evaluation of the independence
- **Alerting**
 - Alerting behaviour of the dog handler
 - Alerting behaviour of the dog

- **General impression**
 - Mission ready or not

Evaluation of the tactical situation, system work and directing

- The search tactic of the search dog handler for the structured and well-regulated search mission has to be a result from the tactical situation.
- The search dog handler has to establish a system work and search structure using the tactical situation.
- The search dog handler has to determine the course of motions of the search dog in, atop or at a search object.
- The system work requires an adequate orientation behaviour of the search dog handler at the assigned work site.
- The search dog handler has to sum up the mechanisms of his own assessment at the orientation behaviour:
 1. Assessing: What is the situation?
 2. Priorities: Where do I have to start?
 3. Tactic: How do I proceed?
 4. Safety: How do I proceed safely?
- The knowledge of the overall situation – assessment of the search dog handler – is absolutely essential.
- The search dog handler has to monitor the system work of the search dog.

Evaluation of the monitoring

- The search dog handler has to monitor the search dog constantly and has to maintain visual sight, if possible.
- A constant visual and acoustical team communication between the search dog handler and the search dog has to be maintained constantly.
- The search dog handler has to always overlook where his dog is and is therefore not limited in his freedom of movement, if the current safety situation allows it. If the search dog handler enters rubble areas, which were designated as danger zones at the tactical situation briefing, this will be evaluated as a major tactical mistake in the evaluation sheets.
- The access to the rubble is possible, if the current safety situation allows it. However, it's not allowed to enter rubble, which have not been searched by the search dog before. This will be evaluated by a tactical mistake in the evaluation sheets.
- The search dog handler has to decide in time, which lot the search dog has to search next.
- The search dog handler has to have extensive knowledge in search strategies, how an assigned search area can be split-up and how it can be searched, together with the dog, in a target-oriented manner.
- It is required from the search dog handler, that he can read the search dog using the signals and that he adjusts his own directability behaviour accordingly.
- The search dog handler has to grant the search dog the required freedom to work at the assigned work area on his own.

Evaluation of the search work

- The search dog should search for the scent of the person (the will to find) persistently and intensively. A high value is set on this.
- Human scent, which arises from the depth or height, has to be clearly alerted by the search dog.
- The search dog handler will be evaluated during the search work on how he directs the search dog, how he adjusts the structure to the search effort of the search dog and how he corrects it, if necessary. Furthermore he will be evaluated on how he supports the joy of work of the search dog at the right time using motivating leadership communication.
- The spirited joy of work of the search dog has to be visible.
- The motivating co-work of the search dog handler has to be visible.
- The harmonic team effort has to be visible.

Evaluation of the mobility

- The search dog handler and the search dog have to be mobile, feature very good rubble mobility and balance and may not avoid material or constructional difficulties.
- The search dog handler and the search dog must not refuse the entrance to dark areas while searching.
- The search dog handler and the search dog must be able to work at inconvenient search locations.
- The search dog handler has to take the leadership role in the search dog team.

Evaluation of the independence

- The search dog has to work on his own at the assigned work area, without the need to always encourage him to continue.
- The search dog handler has to let the search dog work at the assigned work area, has to monitor his work and correct it.
- The eager to work search dog must not leave the assigned work area and must not move uncontrolled inside and outside of the work site.

Evaluation of the alerting

- The outlet of scent of a living person has to be alerted in a convincing way through stalling, focused barking and appropriate digging.
- The search dog has to alert the outlet of human scent at the surface independently, flawlessly, spontaneously and without interference of the search dog handler.
- The way of alerting (barking) has to be clearly identified.
- The alerting behaviour must not be induced by the search dog handler.
- The search dog has to alert every hiding person using repeated barking, as well as focused stalling and / or appropriate digging.
- The search dog handler has to recognize the alert of the search dog and must signalize it to the evaluation team. Every alert has to be signalized by the dog handler.
- After the alert signal through the search dog handler, the search dog must stall at the alert area and must not (not even occasionally) run off.

- A lot of attention has to be given to the team work of the alerting behaviour between the search dog handler and the search dog.
- It is not a mistake, if the search dog handler, after begin of the alerting (barking) of the search dog, has his dog work out the area (also using barking), until the dog shows a definite digging behaviour or focused barking at the alert area and then acknowledges the alert by a clear hand signal.
- The search dog handler has to behave correctly, where necessary support the search dog after the alerting – however, without motivating the actual alert behaviour – and read the alert of the search dog based on his behaviour.
- As soon as the search dog handler has signaled the alert to the evaluators, he may commend and encourage the search dog, as well as strengthen the triggered alerting behaviour.
- The search dog handler may reward the search dog at the alert site. It has to be made sure that the alert site remains free of any food, which was used for the reward.
- After the alerting, the search dog handler has to call the buried person and motivate the person for an answer. “Search and Rescue – can you hear me” counts as correct behaviour of the search dog handler at the MRT.
- The attained information of the alert have to be forwarded at a high quality to the rescue teams / evaluators.

Overall impression

- At the end of the evaluation, the evaluators issue their personal overall impression to the search dog handler. They tell him, if the team is mission ready, based on the demonstrated performance, in form of a yes / no answer on the evaluation sheet.

Evaluation of the group commanders

An IRO group commander MRT can, but doesn't have to be executed in connection with an IRO SD MRT. The group commander of a search group is a leadership function, which directs a search group. The group commander is in charge of his search group.

The group commander commands the tactical unit "Search group", which consists of at least 3 search troops. A search troop, consisting of 2 persons, the search dog handler with his search dog and the search troop helper (security man), proceed generally together. (INSARAG safety and security)

The group commander:

- Has to assess a mission situation, which was predetermined by the evaluators.
- Has to practically demonstrate a sighting- and evaluation procedure according to "**The 5 / 10 Step Approach**" of the INSARAG guidelines (INSARAG guidelines 2008 F 11 Page 66 – 78) at a minimum of 2 work sites.
- Has to draw the results on a field map (minimum DIN A 4 size) and present them in form of a situation report to the group commander evaluators (qualified reporting). The communication with the evaluators is important. It is also important that they are informed of all important search and assessment results.
- Assigns the tasks within the search group. If the evaluation of the group commander is executed in connection with a SD MRT, there is the possibility, however, that the evaluators may limit the tasks at the work sites, because of reasons of the search dog evaluation.
- Is responsible for the mission readiness and punctuality of his group.
- Is in charge of the welfare of his group.
- Has to direct the assigned personal independently at the work sites, provided that no limitations for the evaluation within the search dog work are in place.

Evaluated will be with the use of a checklist for group commanders and by means of a evaluation key for group commanders of the MRT. The evaluation sheets will be processed from all stations and the end result will be determined. On average a sufficient evaluation has to be archived. Evaluation criteria is as follows:

- Discipline and punctuality
- Questioning at the stations (RDC, OSOCC, BoO and work sites)
- Comprehensive evaluation of the situation
- Recognition and handling of dangerous situations
- Develop search priorities
- Safety precautions at the stations (also at the RDC and BoO)
- Qualified communication and coverage in the team
- Leadership behaviour and delegation
- Communication with the evaluators

At the end only the positive evaluated participants will get the end result "mission ready" in form of a certificate.

After every IRO group commander MRT the department of deployment will conduct a general analysis to work out improvements and will provide them for the participating NROs.

Requirements for the acceptance of a NRO SD MRT

The application for the execution of a NRO SD MRT generally has to be addressed via the IRO office to the department of deployment.

The NRO SD MRT has to conform to the suggested IRO guidelines to the SD MRT.

If the regulations of the IRO guidelines for the MRT are not met, the MRT will not be accepted in terms of an IRO SD MRT.

Planning and execution

- The organizing NRO is in charge of the execution.
- The NRO SD MRT will be integrated in the respective annual plan of the IRO and therefore has to be registered by 30th June of the year before as an official IRO event.
- The invitation for the MRT has to be sent from the organizing NRO to the IRO office. It must include the place and time of the event, a contact and official address, the application deadline and the application fee.
- Other NRO teams may also be able to apply, if the capacities allow it.
- The application fee must not be higher than € 50,-.
- The application deadline has to be scheduled 4 weeks prior to the event. Late applications may only be accepted, if they can be implemented in the schedule without any problem.
- The same evaluation system that applies at the IRO SD MRT has to be used.
- Immediately after the MRT a completely filled out and from the IRO observers signed form of the evaluation lists has to be sent to the IRO office.

NRO evaluators / judges

- The evaluators / judges have to come from the evaluator pool of the IRO / AFDRU / RE-DOG or from national associations, which belong to the FCI.
- The organizing NRO is in charge of the nomination, assignment and costs of the evaluators.
- There is the possibility to nominate own accepted evaluators / judges or accepted evaluators / judges from other NROs respectively associations, which belong to the FCI.

IRO observers

- The department of deployment of the IRO assigns at least 2 IRO observers, who supervise the correct execution of the NRO SD MRT.
- The IRO observers are taken from the IRO evaluator pool for international MRTs.
- The IRO covers the travel expenses, accommodation expenses including breakfast, as well as daily fees for the IRO observers, according to the latest IRO expense reports regulations. The planning and execution will be regulated via the IRO office in connection with the chosen IRO observers.
- The organizer takes care of the transport of the observers on-site.
- After completion of the NRO SD MRT the observers file a written report to the IRO spokesperson of deployment. The acceptance of the NRO SD MRT by the IRO is dependent on that report.