The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to an internationally recognized topographic map file.

Each of these rectangles is given a unique alpha-numeric reference number. Each consists of 80 square cells, 10 across and 8 down. Each square cell is approximately 5 km by 5 km, representing an area of 25 square km.

The grid is divided into 404 rectangles, each corresponding to an internationally recognized topographic map file.

- Locate the square cell you are in on the map using the estimated distance and direction from a known point such as a clinic, school or settlement as a guide.
- Note that the alpha-numeric rectangle code (e.g. NA-38-100)
- Note the numeric reference of the square cell
- Note the alphabetic reference of the square cell
- When reporting your position, quote the full grid reference by combining the two references (e.g. NA-38-100-7F).