

BRAZIL

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INCLUSION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR OPERATION IN BIOLOGICAL RISK

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Medical

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Considering the increasing exposure of forces involved in international missions to environments with potential biological threats, as highlighted in official documents from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the operational medical guidelines of the United Nations (UN Medical Support Manual for United Nations Field Mission, 4th Edition, 2024), it becomes essential to provide a detailed specification of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to ensure the safety of personnel and to guarantee appropriate and standardized reimbursement for these items.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

The Medical Support Manual for United Nations Field Missions states in section 5.4.4, addressing health threats:

“...A comprehensive health threat analysis must consider endemic diseases, epidemics, and outbreaks, particularly contagious and infectious diseases such as Ebola, Lassa fever, and other viral hemorrhagic fevers. It should also account for hostile actions and additional potential hazards, including land mines; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and environmental (CBRNE) threats; as well as occupational and workplace hazards.”

Furthermore, the manual advises that a thorough analysis and planning process for health threat protection measures be conducted. It also emphasizes the necessity for health facilities to maintain full operational capacity tailored to local specificities.

It is proposed that a clear and objective section be included in the chapter specifically related to medical protection standards within the operational manual, addressing the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for biological risk environments, aligned with WHO and UN standards.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Operations in Biological Risk Environments:
• Body Protection:
Disposable fluid-resistant gowns or coveralls (e.g., Tyvek suits).
• Hand Protection:
Nitrile or latex disposable gloves.
Double gloving for high-risk procedures.
• Eye and Face Protection:
Safety goggles with side protection.
Face shields.
• Respiratory Protection:
N95 or equivalent respirators.
Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) for aerosol-generating procedures or high-contamination areas.
• Foot Protection:
Closed, waterproof shoes.

Disposable shoe covers.
• Additional Accessories:
Disposable caps.
Additional plastic aprons for extra protection.

This update will ensure the protection of medical personnel operating in biological risk environments, establish standardized protective equipment requirements, and guarantee fair and consistent reimbursement of associated costs for contributing nations. In line with the reimbursement structure outlined in Chapter 8, Annex B of the 2023 COE Manual for “Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection,” the monthly rate of USD 27.35 may be maintained when the troop/police contributor is required to be equipped for potential biological threats.

It should be noted that the aforementioned Kits, when utilized collectively by the contributing contingent or police unit, are deemed to be included under the Sell sustainment reimbursement framework, as stipulated in the COE Manual. Furthermore, when such Kits are employed by the medical team in the context of biological emergency response — which, in many operational scenarios, precedes the deployment of the main contingent — their use remains covered within the same reimbursement structure.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

PPE Price Table (2025)

Equipment	Generic fair market value (USD)
Tyvek 600 coverall (Body Protection)	\$14.64
Nitrile disposable gloves (per glove)	\$0.12
Safety goggles with side protection	\$7.00
Face shield	\$5.00
N95 respirator	\$1.50
Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	\$1200.00
Waterproof closed shoes	\$100.00
Disposable shoe covers (per pair)	\$0.10
Disposable cap	\$0.10
Plastic disposable apron	\$0.18

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

COE Manual (2023) Chapter 3, Annex C, p. 87, item (o) above dental-only facility:
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Operation in Biological Risk Environments:

If the troop/police contributor is deployed in an area of high biological risk—characterized by the presence of endemic transmissible diseases with high mortality rates that are not preventable by vaccination, or in situations involving hostile actions including chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) threats—personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be considered self-sustainment items. PPE must be made available specifically to all medical and health staff assigned to the mission, with scheduled replacement based on individual use and the equipment’s expiration date. Furthermore, reimbursement rates must cover each replacement of personal protective equipment. In this context, the reimbursement rate established in Chapter 8, Annex B for the self-sustainment service category “Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection” may be applied—maintained at USD 27.35 per month—as a standard rate for troop/police contributors who are required to be equipped against biological, radiological, or nuclear threats. The equipment, estimated values, and their respective reimbursement rates are specified in Appendix 18 of this annex.

Appendix 18

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Operations in Biological Risk Environments:

Equipment	Generic fair market value (USD)
Tyvek 600 coverall (Body Protection)	\$14.64

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Nitrile disposable gloves (per glove)	\$0.12
Safety goggles with side protection	\$7.00
Face shield	\$5.00
N95 respirator	\$1.50
Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	\$1200.00
Waterproof closed shoes	\$100.00
Disposable shoe covers (per pair)	\$0.10
Disposable cap	\$0.10
Plastic disposable apron	\$0.18