

SECRETARIAT

REMOVAL OF UN LETTER / MARKINGS FROM COE PRIOR TO REPATRIATION

Secretariat Issue Paper # 23

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Major Equipment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

- a. It has been observed on some occasions that some T/PCCs have inadvertently used the equipment marked with prominent UN letter / markings during national operations in their country for the purposes, other than the United Nations mandated tasks. The UN marking/ letter is strictly reserved for use within the UN mission area and by the authorized UN personnel in line with their duty with the United Nations.
- b. Use of equipment by T/PCC for roles other than UN may mislead the public and at times pose reputational risks to the organization.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

- a. Removal of UN letters/ markings from the COE on completion of tour of duty with the United Nations.
- b. Implement a procedure for the removal of UN letter/markings from the COE. This involves removal of UN letter/ markings from the equipment with no changes in the UN colour. The removal of UN letter/ markings process should be conducted during the course of repatriation of COE, after the cessation of operation in the mission area, by the T/PCC contingent, before handing over of the equipment to the MOVCON or their contractor if transporting under the LOA and should be verified by United Nations prior to its loading for repatriation.
- c. T/PCC shall remove the UN letter/ markings in the mission within the current reimbursement framework and there will be no additional reimbursement for the removal of the letters/markings in the mission area.
- c. T/PCC should be encouraged to use STICKERS with UN LETTER instead of painting the UN letters.
- d. Recommended Procedures (not for COE Manual) - The following procedure is recommended:
 - I. On repatriation of the COE, FRAGO for Cessation of Operations must clearly state the removal of UN marking from the COE.
 - II. T/PCC contingent in the field will remove/obliterate the UN letter/markings from the COE with the integral resources of the respective contingent.
 - III. United Nations will verify the removal of UN marking/ letter from the COE and report accordingly.

On repatriation to home country T/PCC will repaint the COE back to its national color (military or police) and provide the certificate as required under the existing procedures.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no additional financial implication to the organization. The T/PCCs are already reimbursed for repainting claims for the COE deployed under the MOU.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Proposed text for Chapter 3, Annex A, Appendix 4 Painting and repainting, p. 49/281, para 4 (struck out text to be deleted; bold text to be added):

4. Reimbursement for repainting will be based on major equipment departing the mission in accordance with the departure verification reports. **Troop/police contributors will remove the United Nations markings from the equipment prior to its departure from the mission area.** In order to provide assurance that the equipment will be properly repainted, ~~and all United Nations markings will be duly removed,~~ a troop/police contributor will deliver an official certification to the United Nations through its permanent mission indicating that it **has repainted the equipment in national colors and** will not use the repatriated equipment in any activity before all United Nations markings are removed. The United Nations will reimburse troop/police contributors for repainting after receiving the certification; no claim is necessary. The reimbursement rates for repainting are contained in chapter 8, annex A.⁴

Proposed text for Chapter 4 Preparation, deployment, repatriation and transportation of contingents, Section II Preparation Costs, para 2, p. 141/281, (bold text to be added):

2. Prior to deployment, all authorized equipment is to be prepared by the troop/police contributor to a fully operational and fully serviced state. All costs associated with preparing authorized equipment to additional standards defined by the United Nations for deployment to a mission under a wet lease or dry lease arrangement (e.g. painting, United Nations marking, winterizing) and returning equipment to national stocks at the conclusion of a mission (e.g. repainting to national colours) will be reimbursed by the United Nations. Reimbursement will be calculated using the standard rates for painting and repainting listed in the appendix to chapter 8, annex A. **Troop/police contributors will remove the UN letter/ markings from the COE, prior to its repatriation from the mission.** The reimbursement will be limited to the equipment agreed in the memorandum of understanding, plus 10 percent overstock, where applicable.¹