

SECRETARIAT

ROTATION OF COE AT UN EXPENSE – EXPANSION OF CRITERIA

Secretariat Issue Paper # 24

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Major Equipment & Self-sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

The 2023 COE Manual currently states that only equipment from the following categories are eligible to be considered for rotation at UN expense (if/where also meeting other eligibility criteria): aircraft/airfield support equipment, all types of vehicles, material handling equipment, logistical equipment, electrical equipment, communications equipment and engineering equipment. This list excludes a number of categories with significant operational impact on the safety and security of peacekeepers, including medical equipment, demining, and EOD equipment, communications equipment (etc.). To allow missions greater flexibility in responding to operational gaps, the Secretariat proposes to expand the eligibility criteria to include all equipment categories, noting that final approval for rotation at UN expense must continue to be prioritized in accordance with operational requirements, and remains dependent on funding availability.

The COE Manual currently requires ‘10 per cent or more of the amount of equipment in at least one eligible category’ for equipment to be considered for rotation of COE at UN expense. The intent of this policy was to ensure an adequate mass of equipment in order to justify shipment load, however, is overly prescriptive in cases where a sufficient load size can be reached through combining equipment from multiple equipment categories. The Secretariat proposes simplifying this limitation, instead requiring UN clearance that the overall cargo load represents good value-for-money.

The proposal has not previously been considered by the Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

The Secretariat recommends the addition of new language and amendment of existing text under Chapter 4, Part VI. Rotation of equipment and in the Model MOU at Chapter 9 (Section IV Transportation) in order to reflect adjustment to the criteria for consideration of rotation of COE at UN expense.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of rotations at UN expense remains dependent on mission prioritization and agreement to fund the rotation within the existing financial cap and budget processes. As such, there is no additional financial impact from this proposal.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

In order to implement these changes, the following changes to the COE Manual main body and model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template are recommended:

Revise Chapter 4, Section VI. Rotation of equipment, paragraphs 24 and 25, pg. 145-146, add the text in bold and remove the text with a strikethrough.

24. ~~Certain categories of~~ Major equipment under prolonged deployment to peace operations that are non-operable, or for which continued maintenance is not economical in the mission area, can be considered for rotation under the arrangement of the United Nations or under the letter of assist, at United Nations expense, at the discretion of a mission contingent-owned equipment/memorandum of understanding management review board, in consultation with the applicable contingent commander, on the basis of operational requirements within the mission. **All categories of major equipment will be eligible for consideration; with approval remaining dependent on operational priorities and funding availability. These categories are as follows: aircraft/airfield support equipment, all types of vehicles, material handling equipment, logistical equipment, electrical equipment, communications equipment and engineering equipment.**

25. To be eligible for consideration, equipment must have been continuously deployed in peacekeeping operations for at least seven years or 50 per cent of its estimated useful life, whichever comes earlier. Rotation will be considered when the amount of equipment proposed for rotation **is cleared by the UN as representing represents 10 per cent or more of the amount of equipment in at least one eligible category.**¹⁹, **an optimal load size.** Equipment to be rotated at United Nations expense shall be treated by the United Nations as if it were contingent-owned equipment being repatriated at the end of the unit's deployment to a mission area. Replacement equipment shall be treated as if it were equipment being deployed under the contingent's initial deployment to a mission area.²⁰ In exceptional circumstances, such as higher-risk missions, the seven years requirement could be reduced to five years for equipment that is unserviceable due to operational tempo, environmental conditions, extreme climate, location, mileage, hours of usage, trafficability or non-negotiable terrain, to be determined and recommended by the mission leadership and decided by the Secretariat. The rotation at United Nations expense will not include equipment that is not serviceable due to lack of maintenance.

- The mission contingent-owned equipment/memorandum of understanding management review board, in consultation with the applicable contingent commander, should review whether individual generators eligible for rotation under United Nations expense can be replaced with generators of a lower kVA rating based on operational requirements and considerations, such as low average load. If the board concludes that such a replacement is appropriate, the relevant troop- or police-contributing countries would be encouraged to replace such generators with generators of lower kVA ratings.

Revise the model Memorandum of understanding template for military contingents and formed police units in Chapter 9, Annex B, Section IV. Transportation, paragraph 14, pg. 222 add the text in bold and remove the text with a strikethrough.

14. Costs related to the rotation of equipment to meet national operational or maintenance requirements will remain ineligible for reimbursement by the United Nations. ~~Certain categories of~~ Major equipment under prolonged deployment to peace operations that are non-operable, or for which continued maintenance is not economical in the mission area, can be considered for rotation by the United Nations or under the letter of assist, at United Nations expense, at the discretion of a mission contingent-owned equipment/memorandum of understanding management review board, in consultation with the applicable contingent commander, on the basis of operational requirements within the mission. **All categories of major equipment will be eligible for consideration; with approval remaining dependent on operational priorities and funding availability. These categories are as follows: aircraft/airfield support equipment, all types of vehicles, material handling equipment, logistical equipment, electrical equipment, communications equipment and engineering equipment.**