



REVIEW OF UN PROVIDED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS AND MAINTENANCE OF UN PROVIDED EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Sub-Working Group on Accommodation and Minor Engineering

LIST OF ISSUE PAPERS

India issue paper #5: Reimbursements for expenditure by Troop Contributing Country (TCC) for maintenance of UN provided equipment and services

Secretariat issue paper #6 – Mandated Study – Review of UN provided accommodation standards

FOCAL POINTS

India
Secretariat

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Providing United Nations field mission accommodation (UN accommodation) to all deployed uniformed personnel is a UN responsibility unless otherwise agreed in MOU by T/PCC to remain on self-sustainment (SS) for accommodation. When it is UN responsibility, UN is supposed to provide the accommodation within 06 months from deployment on ground. However, at times there are also instances where the UN-provided accommodation has failed to meet UN standard. A detailed report on the poor state of UN provided accommodation in various missions has been submitted by the UN. Old Accommodation & Lack of Maintenance is a major reason for failure to meet UN accommodation standards. Lack of maintenance falls into four categories, namely:

- (a) Delay in completion in Minor Engineering including preventive maintenance, repair and replacement of buildings elements.
- (b) Misinterpretation of the responsibility for Minor Engineering.
- (c) Lack of spare parts.
- (d) Lack of trained personnel.

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In such cases, TCC is maintaining the serviceability of UN provided accommodation to ensure hygienic living standards. There is therefore a requirement wherein a system needs to be incorporated for joint verification inspection of equipment/services provided by UN as per standards prescribed in UN Manuals. In case UN is unable to meet the accommodation standards TCC should be reimbursed by the UN.

PROPOSED TEXT FOR 2023 COE MANUAL

Revise paragraph 37, Tentage, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 56/271) as follows:

37. When the United Nations is unable to provide standard United Nations field mission accommodation for a unit after six months in tents, the troop/police contributor will be entitled to receive reimbursement at both the tentage and the accommodation self-sustainment rates. This combined rate will continue until personnel are housed to the standard specified in paragraph 20 of chapter 3, annex A. The Secretariat may request a temporary waiver of the application of this dual payment principle for short-duration missions for which the provision of standard United Nations field mission accommodation is demonstrably and clearly impractical and not cost effective.

37 bis. During the Quarterly COE inspections, a joint team of United Nations COE unit and T/PCC representatives will carry out an inspection of the United Nations field mission accommodation and ablution units. They will declare the accommodation not meeting UN Standards, if they are not as per the UN standard specified in paragraph 20 of Chapter 3, Annex A. If the accommodation and ablution units provided by the United Nations are ~~not fit for use~~ assessed as ~~not meeting UN Standards in accordance with the standards for United Nations field mission accommodation~~, they will be repaired or replaced by the United Nations in accordance with the deltas identified within the contingent-owned equipment inspection reports.

Revise paragraph 24, Minor engineering, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 53/271) as follows:

24. Appendix 3 to the present annex provides an overview of tasks and responsibilities that fall under minor engineering and major engineering in various circumstances **including responsibilities of both the United Nations and the T/PCC regarding repair and maintenance of United Nations-owned equipment**. Any variations or contingencies not covered in the guidance document would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the United Nations and the contributing country, with the reasonability clause being applied in such cases-

Revise Table 3, Responsibilities related to minor engineering when the United Nations provides accommodation, Appendix 3, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 69-70/271) as follows:

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Table 3
Responsibilities related to minor engineering when the United Nations provides accommodation^a

| <i>Accommodation</i> | <i>Field mission</i> | <i>Minor engineering by formed unit</i> |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foundation work and erection and assembly of accommodation units, office and workspace, and ablution facilities ▪ Construction/reconstruction/refurbishment to United Nations standard of living space and office/workspace, including kitchen and laundry facilities ▪ Installation of floor/wall/roof panels, doors, windows, footings, netting, heating/cooling ▪ Installation of building utilities (electrical wiring and fixtures, water supply and wastewater removal) ▪ Internal and external painting of United Nations-provided accommodation and workspace, as well as United Nations markings, as necessary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an accommodation plan which allows for effective use of United Nations-provided accommodation while ensuring satisfactory living conditions of formed unit personnel |

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- Maintenance repair^b** **and**
- Repair and replacement of building elements (floor, walls, roof panels, doors, windows, footings)
 - Major repair work to building utilities (installation of electrical wiring and fixtures, water supply and wastewater removal)
 - Major paintwork
 - **Preventive maintenance: periodic inspection (minimum twice a year or in cases where the verification report states the accommodation does not meet the required standard) and allocation of responsibilities and resources for renovation accordingly.**
 - Minor paintwork and repairs to painted surfaces
- **Handle minor electrical repairs and replacement including electrical fixtures**
 - **Undertake minor repairs to plumbing and water systems including toilets and showers**
 - **Conduct minor maintenance and other light repair work including fastening of loose fixtures (door handles, window brackets, hinges)**
 - Cleaning:^c Daily sweeping and washing of floors, wash basins, showers, water closets and urinals; washing of walls, window cleaning, and removal of limestone in toilets, showers, faucets and shower heads, etc.
 - Cleaning: daily cleaning of drains, plumbing installations and fixtures, and electrical installations and fixtures, including surface wiring

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| <i>Accommodation</i> | <i>Field mission</i> | <i>Minor engineering by formed unit</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Consumables/supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all spare parts and consumables related to maintenance and repairs, except cleaning materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cleaning materials |
| Tools and personnel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all personnel and tools for construction and assembly work, installation and major repairs Provide all personnel and tools for periodic inspection and preventive maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all personnel and tools for minor repair Provide all related workshop equipment and construction tools |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide furniture for eating facilities, where necessary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain furniture |

^a It should be noted that, in order to minimize the risk of fire, there can be **no use** of additional electrical appliances, no open fires, no cookers, no coffeemakers, no gas cookers and no smoking in United Nations-provided accommodation.

^b In cases in which the United Nations is unable to carry out repairs and maintenance or provide special spare parts, a troop/police contributor, with the prior agreement of the United Nations as to the scope of work required, may carry out the required repairs and maintenance using spare parts provided by the United Nations or purchased by the troop/police contributor itself. A troop/police contributor shall be entitled to reimbursement of the actual and reasonable costs of carrying out the repairs and maintenance upon presentation of supporting documentation and a claim ([A/C.5/68/22](#), para. 114).

^c These standards also apply to the self-sustainment category of cleaning.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

PROPOSED TEXT FOR COE WORKING GROUP REPORT

The UN Secretariat Issue Paper on Review of UN provided accommodation standards has been discussed extensively during the COE Working Group Conference 2023. During the discussions, UN Secretariat informed that in 2021, 1718 (2.7%) peacekeepers are not provided accommodation and 3278 (5.2%) have been provided substandard living accommodation. It was informed that a separate working group is conducting a study following the UN GA resolution 76/274 cross-cutting issues to identify the causes of UN accommodation not meeting the standards and develop recommendations. The COE Working Group recommends that the Study Report be submitted at the earliest and shared with member states. Recommendations of the Study Report pertaining to repairs and upgradation be approved and implemented on priority with an aim to provide accommodation meeting UN standards to peacekeepers in field missions before next working group conference in 2026.

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