



INTRODUCTION OF A DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPROVAL BY TROOP / POLICE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES FOR DISPOSAL / DESTRUCTION OF UNSERVICEABLE AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES IN THE MISSION AREA

Secretariat Issue Paper #27

Issue Paper Theme: **Cross-cutting**

BACKGROUND

As per current policy, approval from the government of a troop / police contributing countries is mandatory before the disposal of unserviceable ammunition and explosives in a mission can be carried out. This process starts often only after the ammunition / explosive has been declared unserviceable and takes a significant amount of time (in many cases several months and even years). This poses a high safety risk to the mission due to the increased instability of ammunition including the burden of ensuring enhanced safe storage and environmental control. It has been observed that the delayed clearance from the troop / police contributing countries poses danger to life and equipment. In a recent liquidated mission, the amount of unserviceable and undisposed ammunition caused considerable challenges meeting the very tight liquidation and repatriation timelines. The difficulties in getting national approval for destruction / disposal from the government of the troop / police contributing countries has led to significant stockpiles of ammunition that is either unserviceable or expired.

PROPOSAL

The UNMAM (United Nations Manual on Ammunition Management) specifies that the military and police components will notify their respective troop / police contributing countries for replenishment of ammunition or certificate for extension of shelf life at least 18 months prior to the date of expiry of the ammunition. Only in rare cases is the ammunition rotated together with contingents and replaced with new ammunition. The process to receive approval for either destruction or extension of life of ammunition from the troop / police contributing countries should ideally start 18 months prior to the expiry date of ammunition. In this context, this paper proposes a deadline of six months for contingents to obtain this approval from the day of declaration of unserviceability, after which the ammunition will be disposed of without any restrictions or dependencies for safety reasons.



PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

In COE Manual 2020, Chapter 3, Annex A, after para 31 bis, add new para 31 ter and make existing para 31 ter as para 31 quarter:

“31 ter. The process to receive approval for destruction or extension of life of ammunition and explosives from the troop / police contributing countries should ideally start 18 months prior to the approach of manufacturer’s declared expiry date. Troops and police contributing countries are responsible to accord sanction for disposal of unserviceable / expired ammunition and explosives within six months of expiry date or date of declaration of unserviceability of ammunition / explosive by SATOs, whichever is earlier, after which, the requirement of obtaining approval from troop / police contributing countries before disposal of unserviceable ammunition / explosives will no longer exist and unserviceable ammunition / explosives will be disposed of in the mission area for safety reasons.”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this proposal as expired/unserviceable ammunition is reimbursable if disposed of within the mission area.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

This issue paper has not been previously considered by the COE Working Group for consideration.