



REVIEW OF UN-PROVIDED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS

Secretariat Issue Paper #6 – Mandated Study

Issue Paper Theme: **Self-Sustainment**

BACKGROUND

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, there are instances when UN has not been able to meet that timeline due to different factors including but not limited to global supply chain disruptions. On the other hand, there are also instances where the UN-provided accommodation has failed to meet UN standard. Outcome of the study is shown below:

- a. In 2020, UN could not provide accommodation to 1621 (2.6%) deployed uniformed personnel; whereas; 1337 (2.1%) uniformed personnel were staying in UN provided accommodations which did not meet the UN standards. Average deployed strength during 2020 was 62,748.
- b. In 2021, UN could not provide accommodation to 1718 (2.7%) deployed uniformed personnel; whereas; 3278 (5.2%) uniformed personnel were staying in UN provided accommodations which did not meet the UN standards. Average deployed strength during 2021 was 62,748.
- c. During this period about 9144 uniformed personnel were under accommodation self-sustainment as per MOU.

From the analysis of the types of faults, it was concluded that “Lack of Maintenance” is a major reason for failure to meet UN accommodation standards. “Lack of maintenance” falls into four categories, namely:

- Delay in completion in Minor Engineering including preventive maintenance, repair and replacement of buildings elements.
- Misinterpretation of the responsibility for **Minor Engineering**.
- Lack of spare parts.
- Lack of trained personnel.

Responsibility for maintaining UN accommodation is shared by UN Field Mission and T/PCC under minor engineering SS category. The “UN Manual on Policies and Procedures concerning the Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-Owned Equipment of Troop/Police Contributors Participating in Peacekeeping Missions”, (COE Manual) Chapter 3, annex B, Paragraphs 23 and 24 define the scope and responsibility of Minor Engineering; Table 3, Appendix 3 of the same annex elaborates and explains responsibilities related to minor engineering for both UN Field Mission and T/PCC, in situations where the United Nations provides accommodation. However,



during the study it was identified that missions have different practices due to ambiguity of the responsibilities regarding Minor Engineering as currently included in the COE Manual.

To ensure proper maintenance of UN provided accommodations, it is essential that Minor Engineering responsibilities are clarified, and the lack of spares and lack of trained personnel are adequately addressed to ultimately achieve the desired goal to meet UN accommodation standards.

Mission to improve coordination between Force Generation cell and mission acquisition unit to synchronize the arrival of troops on ground and supply chain lead times for the provision of accommodation contracts.

PROPOSAL

Responsibilities of periodic maintenance/ repair/ replacement of spare parts related to UN provided accommodation should be within UN, which is already mentioned in COE manual; however, the manual text on *Minor Engineering* in paragraph 24, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 53/271) as well as related Table 3, Appendix 3, Chapter 3, annex B, (page 69-70/271) on *Responsibilities related to minor engineering when the United Nations provides accommodation* need to be revised to bring clarity and to eliminate the prevailing scope of misinterpretation by different stakeholders.

PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

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 the United Nations 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. The United Nations Engineering Manual will amplify the guidance.

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:



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
Maintenance and repair^b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 and testing of all elements and fixtures, repair or replacement of broken/damaged items (windowpanes, electrical wiring and fixtures, door handles, hinges) ▪ Minor paintwork and repairs to painted surfaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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



<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.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the proposal which aims at clarifying and strengthening the division of responsibilities between the UN and T/PCCs on maintenance of accommodation.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

In the 2020 COE Working Group, three (3) Issue Papers were presented on minor engineering: a) Bangladesh issue paper 7, on specific guidelines regarding minor engineering capability. (b) Pakistan issue paper 5, on delinking environmental section guidelines from minor engineering; (c) Secretariat issue paper 29, on minor engineering and environmental management. Three (3) issue papers were also presented on accommodation: (a) Ethiopia issue paper on provision of accommodation by the UN; (b) India issue paper 5, on the provision and maintenance of accommodation, (c) India issue paper 6, on the maintenance of ablution units and provision of mobile ablution facilities.

In 2017 COE Working Group, three (3) Issue Papers were presented on accommodation: a) Secretariat Issue paper 6 on accommodation; b) France issue paper 4 on incentivizing the provision of accommodation for blue helmets; and c) India issue paper 2 on provision of authorized accommodation to troops by UN.