

CHAPTER 14

MUNITIONS PACKAGING, MARKING AND UNIT LOADS

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1 MUNITIONS PACKAGING, MARKING AND UNIT LOADS

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 It is a UK legal requirement that all munitions are procured in packaging which has been approved after scrutiny of environmental and handling requirements and consideration of compatibility of packaging materials with the base explosives. Military explosives are therefore normally packaged for transport and storage in packaging that is designed to protect the contents from all foreseeable hazards of physical damage and environmental deterioration throughout the envisaged service life and including final disposal of the items. Deviation from the approved packaging will present a risk in terms of either damage/deterioration of the explosives. Both of these may have repercussions on the service life, functioning, or safety of the store. Packaging for explosives can however only be expected to provide the degree of protection consistent with the purposes, climatic zones and cost limitations for which they were designed.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 The purpose of this Chapter is to outline the procedures agreed by the Weapons Operating Centre (WOC) for the management of Munitions Packaging. From September 2012, specification, procurement and marking, Munitions marking and Unit Load design and marking have been consolidated into JSP 762 Weapons and Munitions Through Life Capability, Chapter 11 – Munitions Packaging.

1.3 Procedure

1.3.1 The management procedures, standards and DEFCONs to be followed in the procurement of Munitions Packaging are detailed in JSP 762 C11.

1.3.2 The Department for Transport (DfT) and the Vehicle Certification Agency – Dangerous Goods Office (VCA DGO) are the approving authority for munitions packaging.

1.3.3 In order to make sure that all MOD Munitions Explosives Packages meet legal requirements the following procedure must be carried out prior to Muniton delivery to MOD.

1.3.4 All new Munitions Explosives Packages below 400 kg net mass (or 450 Ltrs) or above 400 kg net mass (or 450 Ltrs but not over 3 cubic meters) must be submitted to VCA DGO via DGM PT (Pkg) for purposes of either;

- a) the award of a new UN Mark or;

- b) the preparation of a P101 UN Packing Method Approval letter for DfT signature or;
- c) to avoid raising a new UN Mark for every slight variant, the registration of the new store onto a Schedule for an existing UN Mark can be agreed with MOD under a management method. This confirms the store can be packaged in that Outer packaging in accordance with the correct UN Packing Method for the store and fulfils the legal obligation in CDG 2009 (As Amended) for DfT (through VCA DGO) to assign a UN Mark or P101 Approval letter to Explosives packages.

1.4 Unpackaged Explosives Articles

1.4.1 Unpackaged Explosives Articles e.g. Bombs, Torpedoes etc. carried in cradles or handling devices are not 'Explosives Packages' and are not to be submitted to VCA DGO but submitted to Sec ESTC (using MOD Form 1673) as the UK Competent Authority for the Approval of Unpackaged Explosives articles under CDG 2009 (As Amended).

1.5 Foreign Explosives Packages

1.5.1 Foreign supplied Explosives packages from ADR member countries must also be in possession of one of the above means of certification. Whilst these must, under ADR, be accepted by the UK Competent Authorities and MOD UK it will be of assistance to Sec ESTC when Classifying the new Explosives package to be able to confirm packaging performance. Therefore the PT is advised to obtain a copy of the certification and attach this to the MOD Form 1655 when applying for Classification (see Chapter 4).

1.5.2 The Management procedures, standards and DEFCONs to be followed in the procurement of Munitions Packaging are detailed in JSP 762 Ch 11. VCA DGO will require that ESTC Classification has been completed before approving packaging performance.

1.6 Marking and Unit Loads

1.6.1 MOD Marking requirements for Explosives Stores themselves and Explosives Packages are to be in accordance with Def Stan 00-810.

1.6.2 Design, Testing and Marking of Unit Loads for Munitions is to be in accordance with Def Stan 00-814 and STANAG 2828.