



Defence
Safety Authority

DSA 03.OME Part 1: Defence Code of Practice (DCOP) 118

Certification of Defence Ordnance, Munitions, and
Explosives (OME)



Version Record

Version 1.4

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Version changes: see amendment table.

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Preface

Requests for Change

1. Proposed changes, recommendations, or amendments to DOSR Regulations and Guidance can be submitted to the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team:

Email Address: dsa-dosr-prg@mod.gov.uk

Postal Address: Juniper #5004, Level 1, Wing 4, Abbey Wood North, Bristol, BS34 8QW

2. Any post and grammar change proposals can be approved or rejected by the DOSR without involvement of the associated Working Group.

3. Technical change proposals should be submitted to the associated Working Group for review and approval or rejection.

4. When incorporating changes, care is to be taken to maintain coherence across regulations.

5. Changes effecting Risk to Life will be published immediately. Other changes will be incorporated as part of routine reviews.

Review Process

6. The DOSR team will ensure OME Regulations remain fit for purpose by conducting regular reviews through the DOSR Governance Committees, consulting with MOD Stakeholders and other Defence Regulators as necessary on interfaces and where there may be overlaps of responsibility.

Further Advice and Feedback

7. For further information about any aspect of this document, or questions not answered within the subsequent sections, or to provide feedback on the content, contact the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team.

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Amendment Record

Version	Section	Para	Amendment Summary	Agreed	Date
1.0	all	all	Document created	DOSR	Sep 2022
1.1	all	all	The publication has been reformatted. The text has not changed.	Pubs-1	Nov 2023
1.2	all	all	Reviewed and reformatted in line with DSA accessibility requirements.	Permissions ATL	Apr 2025
1.3	Regulation	1	Regulation changed to copy Regulation 118 wording.	Regs-Pubs-2	June 2025

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DSA 03.OME DCOP 118

Version	Section	Para	Amendment Summary	Agreed	Date
1.4	Regulation	1	Regulation changed to reflect a requested change to Regulation 118 wording.	Regs-Pubs-2	Oct 2025

Regulation OME 118

Certification of Defence Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (OME)

1. The Accountable Person shall ensure that the conformity of new Defence OME and major changes to either the Configuration, Role, or Environment (CRE) of legacy OME, shall be attested against the requirements of Part 1 of DSA 02.OME, prior to their introduction into Service through Urgent Capability Requirement (UCR), Commercial Off the Shelf (COT), Modified/Military Off the Shelf (MOTS) or any other procurement process.

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Background to OME Certification

2. The aim of OME certification is to provide robust Third Line of Defence (3LoD) assurance across its planned Manufacture to Target or Disposal Sequence (MTDS); This will make a significant contribution to the safeguarding of Defence personnel, members of the public, infrastructure and equipment.

3. Early engagement with Defence OME Safety Regulator (DOSR) by those setting the requirements for a new or modified OME, enables intended trade-offs between risk and operational capability to be identified.

Applicability to OME Certification

4. All New OME projects are required to follow the Certification Process.

5. OME not In-Service with UK MOD on 6 May 2024 (the launch date for the Certification Tool) which had not completed the Assessment phase of the CADMID cycle, is to follow the Certification Process.

6. For any OME that had not entered service, but was beyond the Assessment phase on 6 May 2024, consultation with DOSR will be required on a project-by-project basis, to determine which elements of the Certification Process should be applied.

7. Legacy OME In-Service. There are no immediate plans to apply the Certification Tool retrospectively for OME already in service. However, any legacy OME that is subject to a Major Change to its CRE whilst in-service will be subject to the relevant elements of the Certification Process.

OME Certification Process

8. OME Certification is achieved through the independent peer review of documentary evidence, undertaken by the Defence OME Certifying Board (DOME CB). The DOME CB acts on behalf of the DOSR and provides independent 3LoD of the OME's compliance with the regulations, contained within DSA 02.OME Part 1. The DOME CB has delegated authority from the DOSR to provide that

assurance. Upon satisfactory completion of the Certification process DOSR will update the Online Certification Tool to reflect the status of the OME.

9. The Certification Process is broken down into four stages:
 - a. Stage 1 - Certification Request.
 - b. Stage 2 - DOSR Assurance Review(s).
 - c. Stage 3 - AP Declaration of OME Regulatory Compliance (DORC) or Waiver Request.
 - d. Stage 4 - DOSR Certification.
10. The DOME CB is a standing body chaired by DOSR TL/ATL, supported by the DOSR Permissions Team and, as appropriate, augmented by:
 - a. Other DSA Regulators for cross-boundary integration issues.
 - b. Relevant technical experts of the OME Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) community with the necessary expertise and who are independent of the OME being reviewed.
 - c. Co-opted SQEP from other functional safety areas, where appropriate.
11. The DOSR Permissions Team will conduct the day-to-day management of the Certification process on the online Certification Tool.

Stage 1 – Certification Request

12. The Certification process is a paperless process and makes maximum use of the online Certification Tool. Consequently, all documents are to be submitted in electronic format only. It should be noted that draft documents are not acceptable for the Certification process. The Applicant's request should contain the proposed Certification Plan which enables DOSR to review (at Stage 2) the applicant's approach to achieve future OME Certification.
13. The Applicant should register their Initial Request for the OME Project at the earliest opportunity using the online Certification Tool. During the Initial Request, only the applicant's email is required to be entered. Once submitted, they will receive a unique five-digit alpha-numeric reference on screen and via an email which must be used to activate the request within 3 days.
14. Once the applicant has a sound Plan and obtained the following documents, they should proceed with populating the application:
 - a. Concept of Use/Operations document, explaining how the OME will be used. This document should be used to inform/develop the Certification Plan to outline the safety performance criteria and certification approach, observing any potential constraints identified.

- b. Risk Review document, demonstrating the OME Review Category for Factor (1) Credible Worst-Case Consequence, and Factor (3) Energetic Materials, such as a Hazard log, Risk Matrix, etc.
 - c. Any Additional Evidence to support the request, such as technical documents of the OME, test plans, etc.
15. To demonstrate that an item of OME entering into Service complies with all applicable Defence Regulations and to provide confidence that it meets Essential Safety Requirements, the following Regulations must be considered:
- a. DSA.02 OME (101): OME Design Requirements.
 - b. DSA.02 OME (106): Classification for Transport and Storage.
 - c. DSA.02 OME (107): Explosive Material (EM) Qualification.
 - d. DSA.02 OME (108): Initiation Systems (IS) Qualification.
 - e. DSA.02 OME (109): Software and Programmable Hardware.
 - f. DSA.02 OME (110): Environmental Testing (Climatic and Mechanical).
 - g. DSA.02 OME (111): Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3).
 - h. DSA.02 OME (112): OME Vulnerability (Insensitive Munitions (IM)).
 - i. DSA.02 OME (114): Gun Barrel Proof.
16. MOD Project/Delivery Teams (PT/DTs) should use International Harmonized Standards (NATO STANAGs, etc.) that the UK has agreed to, as the means of demonstrating that the OME complies with the relevant Defence OME Regulations. A compliance matrix for each applicable foreign design and test standard should be provided to demonstrate its equivalence with International Harmonized Standards.
17. When Recognition is being used as a basis for certification the Plan should set out this intent, supported by a rationale for this approach and any deltas between the originating nations use, relative to that intended by the UK.
18. Against each of the nine Essential Safety Requirements, the applicant will have to state whether the Regulation applies, or if it is considered not applicable. When considering compliance with the OME Regulations, they will be demonstrated using the following options:
- a. Yes, using AMC. When the applicant plans to follow the prescribed Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) within the Regulations to achieve Regulatory Compliance.
 - b. Yes, with alternative evidence. If the applicant plans to deviate from an AMC, they must provide details of the proposed alternative.

- c. No, does not apply. This is when the Regulation is considered not applicable to the OME. Justification will need to be provided in the comments box and/or evidence attached.

19. Against each of the OME Review Categories for Factor (1) Credible Worst-Case Consequence, and Factor (3) Energetic Materials listed below, the applicant must select the appropriate level of Risk:

- a. Period of Exposure.
- b. Injuries of persons directly involved.
- c. Injuries of persons indirectly involved.
- d. Damage to facilities.
- e. Damage to platform.
- f. Environmental impacts.
- g. Novel Energetics and Service History.
- h. Munition IM Compliance.

20. The assessment responses for the above Critical Factors are:

- a. Insignificant.
- b. Marginal.
- c. Significant.
- d. Very Significant.

21. As the application request is to demonstrate the proposed Plan for the Essential Safety Requirements and Critical Factors, the responses from the applicant should be provided for their assessed response based on the Manufacture to Disposal Sequence (MTDS) of the OME.

Stage 2 – DOSR Assurance Review(s)

22. DOSR will review the application, the proposed Plan for each Regulation and each Review Category. When the DOSR Review is complete, the Applicant will be notified of the decisions by an automated email from the online Certification Tool. If any of the proposed Plan or Review Category is rejected, the reason will be stated within the returned application. This will allow the applicant to review their original submission, provide a robust response, provide any additional evidence or amend accordingly. Once the applicant is satisfied with their response(s), they are to re-submit to DOSR for further review.

23. When DOSR accepts all elements of the request, they will agree the Certification Plan in principle, then send the request to the OME's AP for further processing.

Stage 3 - AP Declaration of OME Regulatory Compliance (DORC) or Waiver Request

24. The AP for the OME shall be responsible for ensuring the agreed approach to Certification has been followed. If not already submitted on the applicant's request, it is essential at this stage, for an Ammunition Descriptive Asset Code (ADAC), NATO stock Number (NSN) and Full Designation is added before the AP can continue. Dependant on the demonstrated level of OME Regulatory Compliance, the AP has two options:

- a. Complete the proforma for a DORC. The AP should only complete and sign this proforma if they are fully satisfied that full compliance has been achieved.
- b. Complete the proforma for a Waiver. If the AP is not fully satisfied that compliance is achieved, they are to apply for a Waiver. Additional information for Waiver submission can be found in DSA 02. OME Regulations, Introduction, Paras 18-26.

25. In all cases, the AP shall be a crown servant.

Stage 4 - DOSR Certification

26. The application will result in one of the following three documents:

- a. Below Threshold. If the application demonstrates that the OME falls below the threshold for full Certification the completed DORC, once signed it will be automatically added to the online Certification Tool. A copy of the DORC is available to view and download.
- b. Above Threshold. If the application demonstrates that the OME meets the threshold for full Certification, on signing the DORC the AP will be requested to submit additional evidence onto the online Certification Tool for DOMECEB review. The DOMECEB will either issue a CORC or return to AP for a Waiver Request if deemed non-compliant.
- c. Non-Compliance. There may be occasions when some aspects of the agreed approach to Certification are not achievable. In such circumstances, the AP shall discuss the non-compliance with the DOSR Permissions Team to consider options on how this is managed, including the potential need for a Waiver.

27. The online Certification Tool shall retain either the DORC (if below threshold), the CORC (if full Certification is achieved) or a Waiver if compliance has not been met.

28. Any further guidance on this DCOP should be submitted by email to dsa-dosr-permissions@mod.gov.uk.