



Guidelines for a streamlined certification and re-certification process for “twin” ECPP capacities (April 2022)

The present note describes why, and under which conditions, a streamlined ECPP certification can be applied for “twin” capacities committed to the ECPP. It supplements the certification and registration guidelines (October 2019) and the re-certification and re-registration guidelines (March 2020).

The UCPM legislation provides that all response capacities committed by Member States¹ to the ECPP must be certified, normally by the European Commission (DG ECHO)², before they can be registered in CECIS as ECPP capacities and deployed as such under the UCPM. The ECPP certification aims at guaranteeing that capacities registered in the Pool meet the requirements for international deployments.

When a response capacity is deployed in a disaster response, or participates in an exercise, the management and technical staff are selected from pre-identified rosters of qualified personnel. A capacity does not have its own dedicated team, but relies on (a) roster(s) of personnel. A roster can typically count two or more times what is needed to operate the capacity. For a given capacity, it is not always the same persons who are deployed or train in an exercise. Therefore, the ECPP quality assurance is not about certifying individuals. Equally, it is not about certifying equipment (except ascertaining its compliance with minimum quality requirements, through a documentary review when assessing the application and/or during the consultative visit). Rather the ECPP certification is about certifying the capacity’s components, namely, the procedures and management systems, and how these allow swift deployment, self-sufficiency, interoperability and good coordination in UCPM deployments.

Some Member States have developed and committed to the ECPP response capacities which, not only are of the same type but have also identical features, procedures, equipment and management (so-called “twin capacities” hereafter).

Two (or more) identical twin capacities can be all ECPP certified after one only participated in, and successfully completed, the full ECPP certification scheme, and in particular the Table-Top Exercise (TTX) and the Field Exercise (FX). This derogatory measure is in line with the UCPM legislation that provides that, as an alternative to the agreed ECPP certification, *“in cases where, on the basis of available information, the Commission considers the quality and interoperability requirements fulfilled, it may register [the capacity] in the voluntary pool”* (Art 16(5) of Implementing Decision No 2014/762/EU).

The immediate benefit is to speed up the certification process and avoid an unnecessary duplication of efforts, particularly when it comes to participating in MODEX exercises. This approach was

¹ = EU Member States and UCPM Participating States

² except EMT and USAR modules, by WHO and INSARAG respectively

adopted in the past in an ad hoc manner. It will be continued, based on predictable, transparent and agreed criteria.

These criteria address the following considerations:

- No compromise on the ECPP quality assurance and standards, which are assessed from the capacity's documentation (factsheet and SOPs mainly) and the capacity's performance in both TTX and FX exercises.
- "Twin capacities" registered in the ECPP should be able to deploy simultaneously under the UCPM (in the same emergency or in simultaneous emergencies), while still respecting all ECPP certification requirements. Therefore, there must be a sufficiently large roster of key managerial personnel, so to ensure managerial quality of both teams in an international context. There should be as well a large enough roster or separate rosters to guarantee a sufficient availability of technical personnel in an operational context.

In view of what precedes, to allow a streamlined certification of "twin capacities", the minimum set of compulsory criteria to fulfil are:

1. Same organization owning the capacity;
2. Unicity of command;
3. Same Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including same administrative, financial and logistical arrangements in international deployments;
4. Same roster of management staff (team leaders, deputy team leaders, liaison officers...) that can lead the twin capacities in international missions;
5. Same core equipment (with each capacity having access to a full set of equipment to allow simultaneous deployments);
6. Roster(s) of technical staff is/are large enough to allow for simultaneous deployments, with regular exchanges between the rosters.

A Member State that intends to have "twin capacities" certified, with only one capacity undergoing the full ECPP certification scheme, has to demonstrate that the above criteria are met, ideally when applying to the Pool. The ECPP certification team will assess the submitted evidence and justifications, for each of the above criteria, ideally before the certification process starts, and verify it during the consultative visit. The concerned Member State will be notified in writing of DG ECHO's decision, and of its justification.

The same approach is followed for the re-certification of "twin" capacities: when the above criteria are met, only one capacity should comply with the compulsory recertification requirement, i.e. participating in an international field exercise.