



## Guidelines for a streamlined certification and re-certification process for “twin” ECPP capacities (v2 - February 2026)

### Document history

Version # - Date	Changes made
Version 1 – April 2022	Initial version
Version 2 – February 2026	Updates on UCPM legislation, minor edits

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 (v3 - December 2025) and the re-certification and re-registration guidelines (v2 – October 2025).

The UCPM legislation provides that all response capacities committed by Member States<sup>1</sup> to the ECPP must be certified, normally by the European Commission (DG ECHO)<sup>2</sup>, 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, its management and technical staff are selected from pre-identified rosters of qualified personnel. A capacity has no dedicated team but relies on (a) roster(s) of personnel, typically counting at least twice the number of personnel required to operate the capacity. Consequently, the individuals participating in deployments or exercises may vary. Therefore, the ECPP quality assurance is not about certifying individuals, nor about certifying equipment, except for verifying compliance with minimum quality requirements through documentary review during the application assessment and/or the consultative visit. Instead, the ECPP certification focuses on certifying the capacity’s core components, namely its procedures and management systems, and on how these allow swift deployment, self-sufficiency, interoperability and effective coordination in UCPM deployments.

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

Two or more identical twin capacities can all be ECPP certified after one only has participated in and successfully completed the full ECPP certification scheme, in particular

<sup>1</sup> = EU Member States and UCPM Participating States

<sup>2</sup> except EMT and USAR modules, by WHO and INSARAG respectively

the Table-Top Exercise (TTX) and the Field Exercise (FX). This derogation is in line with the UCPM legislation, which provides that, as an alternative to the standard ECPP certification process, “Where the Commission considers, on the basis of available information, that certification requirements have been fulfilled, it shall register the module, other response capacity or TAST in the ECPP” (Art 15(7) of Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704).

The immediate benefit is to speed up the certification process and to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, particularly with regard to participation in MODEX exercises, 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 through the capacity’s documentation (notably the factsheet and SOPs) and its performance in both the TTX and FX exercises.
- “Twin capacities” registered in the ECPP must be able to deploy simultaneously under the UCPM – either in the same emergency or in concurrent emergencies- while fully complying with all ECPP certification requirements. This requires a sufficiently large roster of key managerial personnel, technical staff, and equipment

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 administrative, financial and logistical arrangements for international deployments;
4. A common roster of management staff (e.g. team leaders, deputy team leaders, liaison officers) able to lead the twin capacities in international missions;
5. Identical core equipment, with each capacity having access to a complete equipment set to allow simultaneous deployments;
6. Technical staff rosters of sufficient size to allow 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, must 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 will verify it during the consultative visit. The concerned Member State will be notified in writing of DG ECHO’s decision, and its justification.

The same approach applies to the recertification of “twin capacities”: when the above criteria are met, only one capacity is required to comply with the compulsory recertification requirement, namely participation in an international field exercise.