

## Background

The IFRC and ICRC Emergency Items Catalogue project (EIC) was launched in May 2000. In the first 9 years three hard copy editions of the catalogue were printed, 2002, 2004 and 2009. Since 2009, the EIC is on line and permanently updated.

<http://procurement.ifrc.org/catalogue/>

The EIC project continues in 2016 with regular updates of the items information sheets and the maintenance of the web site. It will continue in 2017-2018.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Emergency Items Catalogue. It features a search bar with options for 'Item name', 'Item code', and 'Advanced search'. Below the search bar, there are three main sections for Volume 1, Volume 2, and Volume 3, each with a list of categories. Volume 1 includes Warehouse and Administration, Relief and Logistics Kits, Personal security equipment, Radio and Telecommunication, Power supply and electrical equipment, Tools and Hardware, Food, Household, Shelter and construction materials, Livelihood, Vehicles and consumables, and Water and Sanitation. Volume 2 includes Drug products, Medical disposable supplies, Medical equipment, Cold chain, Laboratory, and Physical Rehabilitation. Volume 3 includes Basic health care ERU, Emergency care and triage, Rapid Deployment Emergency Hospital, Referral hospital ERU, Surgical hospital, weapon wounded, Medical kits, Feeding and nutrition Kits, Medical sets, and Surgical instruments and sets. There is also an 'Information' section with links to item database, codes and description, units conversion, medical weight and volume, and symbols.

## Quality Control procedures and forms

Acceptable Quality Limits (AQL) based on ISO quality system are available on line for major Essential Household Items (EHI). These AQLs are an outcome of the ICRC Procurement Quality department, shared with others via the EIC on line.

The screenshot shows the details page for 'Plastic tarpaulins and sheeting'. It includes a search bar, a list of categories, and a 'Click here!' button. Below the button, there are two product images: a white tarpaulin structure and a roll of white plastic sheeting. The product details table is as follows:

Code	Description	Ind. price	Weight / volume
HSHETARPW406	TARPAULINS, woven plastic, 4 x 6 m, white/white, piece	CHF 15,00	4,2kg / 0,0112m³
HSHETARPW465	PLASTIC SHEETING, woven, 4x60m, white/white, roll	CHF 220,00	55kg / 0,18m³

General information: Reinforced flexible tarpaulins for temporary shelter or personal protection. For individual shelter purpose, it is recommended to use the 4m x 6m tarpaulins. For community shelter purpose, it is recommended to use the 4m x 60m rolls. If ready-made tarpaulins are not available they can be cut out of the rolls (10 per roll).

## EIC on local hardware

For those having to work with no internet access... Available in the form of a USB key at IFRC Logistics, or as a standard application in the ICRC laptops, since 2015. The EIC web site produces an update package every 24h. You can download the updates at every moment whenever a web connection is available.

## Updates of item specifications

Updated and completed specifications for widely distributed goods, with focus on item quality, durability and usage.

- **Kitchen Set:** Several adjustments of the specifications are introduced to avoid poor quality stainless steel and to facilitate the quality control.

The screenshot shows the details page for 'Kitchen set, type A'. It includes a search bar, a list of categories, and a 'Click here!' button. Below the button, there are two product images: a kitchen set with a pot and a frying pan. The product details table is as follows:

Code	Description	Ind. price	Ship. weight	Ship. vol.
KRELC005ETA	KITCHEN SET family of 5 persons, type "A"	CHF 28,00	5kg	0,0187m³

General information: Cooking and serving utensils for 5 people. Does not include a stove or fuel. Composition is more adapted to African and Western cultures. Type B, item code KRELC005ETB, is more adapted to Asian culture. When ordering a kitchen set, if time allows, the composition of the set can be adapted. All items are preferably made of stainless steel. Only one alternative is accepted: Aluminium cooking pots and frying pan instead of stainless steel. The specifications below indicate the minimum quality standards for stainless steel and aluminium materials. Alternative plastic packaging, if available, can be re-used for food or water storage. Product specifications listed below are for international purchases. For local in-country purchase and distribution, national standards should be looked at and, in most cases, revised.

- **Tarpaulins:** The specifications do not change, but dimensional tolerances are introduced to facilitate the quality control.
- **Hygiene items:** The collaboration started in December 2015 with a specialist has given high quality results. We have now 6 major hygiene items with a proper specification sheet. This will be introduced in the EIC in September. These items are shampoo, laundry powder, laundry liquid, household liquid, toothpaste, dish wash liquid. In the next 6 months, we should also finalise the specification for shaving cream and for soap. We expect a broader market approach with these new specifications, and an improved value for money on the 100's of thousands of hygiene kits distributed by the Movement every year.
- **Blanket:** A study managed by ICRC Quality Department over the last years has demonstrated discrepancies in the laboratory testing of the blankets. The Thermal Resistance, usually measured as ToG (Thermal Resistance of Garment), is now replaced by measuring the Rct (Thermal Resistance for textile). In addition, the thickness and the weight have been recently re-determined following the lab test done by ICRC. This major change in the quality assurance of the blankets implies the re-introduction of the Low Thermal blanket.

- **Solar lamps:** Specifications are enlarged to include several validated products. Specifications are now generic, not linked to one product only. This is the solar lamp for distribution.
- **Mattress:** The standard specification with closed cell foam mattress does not correspond to the reality of the procurement. New specification with open cell mattress will be developed.
- **Family tents:** The R&D project handled by the technical departments of IFRC and ICRC has come to an end with specifications for a new type of Family Tent. A first sample was inspected in June at ICRC Satigny. A second sample will be received in September for inspection. Procurement of this new type of tent is expected in 2017. Compared to the current type of Family Tent, this new type of tent offers many improvements with: Lighter weight, self-standing geodesic structure, 100% of synthetic materials not prone to rotting, higher protection against climate with 3 layers, especially designed for temperature reduction in hot climate, all components re-usable in a product second life.

*A Quality Control session was organised with the first sample at ICRC Log Satigny with IFRC and ICRC Technical, Procurement and Quality specialists:*



**The new Geodesic Family Tent:**



## Quality Social and Environmental Inter-Agency Group

This inter-agency working group was created in 2010 in UNHCR Budapest. The UNHCR, UNICEF, MSF, IOM, IFRC and ICRC procurement representatives met last time on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. During this meeting, the group focused on blankets, collapsible jerrycans, and mosquito nets, in terms of quality control. It also extended collaboration and exchanges on factories validation, and on quality system set up. The Companies Social Responsibility was a widely debated topic.

## EIC 2017-2018 project

The EIC project has been on the idle speed since 2010, with a consequence of not being updated in all fields of activity. The main efforts were always to update the Essential Household Items (EHI) for large distribution. This was in support to the purchasers for setting up frame agreements for large quantities, based on clear and up to date specification.

Many other items included in the catalogue are now out dated in terms of specification. This is mainly the case for the medical equipment, consumables, and kits. A specific effort will be made in 2017-2018 to update the medical part of the EIC. This is already engaged with updating the ICRC Kits lists of content in 2016. An increased budget is planned for 2017-2018 to enable this updating work.

For the period 2010-2016, the EIC was running with an average of 45 work-days per year. In 2017-2018 we shall increase this to a minimum of 130 days, subject to fund availability.

## EIC Project Funding:

The IFRC and the ICRC greatly rely on your contribution and support to enable the continuation of this important initiative, which facilitates the work of the entire Movement. **We are looking for your support to this project funding which will be running on 122'000 CHF in total in 2017.**

To make your contributions please contact:

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## Your contribution is essential!

Feedback on the catalogue should be sent by e-mail to Patrick Oger: [patrick.oger@ifrc.org](mailto:patrick.oger@ifrc.org)