Nonconformities ICRC classification definitions:

**Critical nonconformity**: Any discrepancy which might harm a user or makes it impossible to use the product properly is considered to be critical. Lots with Critical discrepancy are subject to refusal.

**Major nonconformity**: Any discrepancy which makes the use of the product less efficient than expected is considered to be major. Lots with Major discrepancies can be accepted.

**Minor nonconformity**: Any discrepancy which does not have an influence on the performance of the product is considered to be minor. Lots with Minor discrepancies can be accepted.

Non-Conformities classification and related penalties:

**Critical** (AQL 0)

- Nonconforming characteristic (number of nonconforming items + Rejection number. ISO-2859-1) implies a penalty of 10% of the value of the total PO and is subject to lot refusal.

**Major** (AQL 4.0)

- Nonconforming characteristic (number of nonconforming items + Rejection number. ISO-2859-1) implies first time a penalty of 0.5% of the value of the total PO, second time 1 %, and + 0.5% at every occurrence for the duration of the contract per each nonconforming characteristic. >10% of nonconforming items is subject to lot refusal.

**Minor** (AQL 6.5)

- Nonconforming characteristic (number of nonconforming items + Rejection number. ISO-2859-1) implies 2 times without penalties, third time a penalty of 0.5% of the value of the total PO, fourth time 1 %, and + 0.5% at every occurrence for the duration of the contract per each nonconforming characteristic. >10% of nonconforming items is subject to lot refusal.

Penalty rules for specific nonconformities:

**Tear strength in plain sheet at state of origin** (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 100N>result: 90N: 2% of the value of the PO
  - 90N>result: 75N: 5% of the value of the PO
  - 75N>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

**Tensile strength in plain sheet at state of origin** (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 500N>result: 450N: 2% of the value of the PO
  - 450N>result: 375N: 5% of the value of the PO
  - 375N>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

**Elongation in warp and weft in plain sheet at state of origin** (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 10% < elongation: 14% or 26% + elongation: 30%: 2% of the value of the PO
  - < 10% or > 30%: 5% of the value of the PO and subject to lot refusal

**Tensile strength in reinforcement bands at state of origin** (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 700N>result: 630N: 2% of the value of the PO
  - 630N>result: 500N: 5% of the value of the PO
  - 500N>result: 10% of the value of the PO and subject to lot refusal

Plain sheet, remaining tensile strength after UV exposure:

- Out of the two penalty rules, only the applicable rule will apply: Above 475 N remaining strength first rule applies. Below 475N second rule applies.

1- Remaining tensile strength after UV exposure (minimum 80% of the original value) (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 80%>result: 70%: 2% of the value of the PO
  - 70%>result: 60%: 5% of the value of the PO
  - 60%>result: 10% of the value of the PO and subject to lot refusal

2- Remaining tensile strength after UV exposure (475 N minimum) (AQL 4.0)

- Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
  - 475N>result: 425N: 2% of the value of the PO
  - 425N>result: 350N: 5% of the value of the PO
  - 350N>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

Reinforcement bands, remaining tensile strength after UV exposure:

- Out of the two penalty rules, only the applicable rule will apply: Above 665 N remaining strength first rule applies. Below 665N second rule applies.

1- Remaining tensile strength after UV exposure (minimum 80% of the original value) (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
80%>result>70%: 2% of the value of the PO
70%>result>60%: 5% of the value of the PO
60%>result: 10% of the value of the PO and subject to lot refusal

2- Remaining tensile strength after UV exposure (665 N minimum) (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
665N>result>600N: 2% of the value of the PO
600N>result>500N: 5% of the value of the PO
500N>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

Welding strength at state of origin:
Out of the two penalty rules, only the applicable rule will apply: Above 400 N remaining strength first rule applies. below 400N second rule applies.

1- Welding strength at state of origin: minimum 50% of the original value (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
50%>result>45%: 2% of the value of the PO
45%>result>35%: 5% of the value of the PO
35%>result: 10% of the value of the PO and subject to lot refusal

2- Welding strength at state of origin: 400 N minimum (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
400N>result>360N: 2% of the value of the PO
360N>result>300N: 5% of the value of the PO
300N>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

Length and width (AQL 6.5)
Penalties are double of all missing material quantity cost.

Out of the two characteristics, Coating colour- L.a.b. coordinates, and opacity-reflexion, only the most unfavourable of the two applies in terms of penalties.

Coating colour- L.a.b. values for the white coating (AQL 4.0)
L.a.b. coordinates: make the total figure of points outside of the specification for the 3 characteristics (L, a and b), and apply 0.5% penalties for each point on the value of the PO. Subject to lot refusal

Opacity (AQL 4.0)
Opacity-reflexion: apply 0.5% penalties on the value of the PO for each 1% out of requirements. Subject to lot refusal.
Opacity-absorption: apply 0.5% penalties on the value of the PO for each 1% out of requirements. Subject to lot refusal.

Tear test in the bands (hook test). (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
70kg>result>63kg: 2% of the value of the PO
63kg>result>50kg: 5% of the value of the PO
50kg>result: 10% of the value of the PO and subject

Tear test in the plain tarpaulin (two legs test). (AQL 4.0)
Discrepancy between requirement and the average result of nonconforming tarpaulins:
10kg>result>8kg: 2% of the value of the PO
8kg>result>7.5kg: 5% of the value of the PO
7.5kg>result: 10% of the value of the lot and subject to lot refusal

Quality Control and Acceptance Quality Limit:
The Method of testing is drawn from ISO-2859-1 International Standards (table1: Sample size code letters, and table 2-A: Single sampling plans for normal inspection). The samples will be taken randomly by the buyer from the lot.

The buyer can decide either to inspect the lot at ICRC QC laboratory or to use an inspection company for analysis, or both. Transport to laboratory and analysis cost for lab testing are at expense of ICRC.

The seller can contest the results of the Quality Control done at ICRC warehouses by requesting a lab testing. In this case transport to laboratory and analysis cost for lab testing are at expense of the seller.

Nonconformity: non-fulfilment of a specified characteristic requirement.
Nonconforming item: item with one or more nonconformities.
Lot: definite amount of some product, material or service, collected together
Sample: set of one or more items taken from a lot and intended to provide information on the lot
# AQL Tarpaulins

## Specifications and Quality Control

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**QC Inspection at ICRC warehouses and lab testing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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<th>QC type</th>
<th>AQL</th>
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### Bales

- **Bales length**: Measurement 6.5, 600mm +/-20% (Minimum 480mm; Maximum 720mm)
- **Bales width**: Measurement 6.5, 400mm +/-20% (Minimum 320mm; Maximum 480mm)
- **Bales height**: Measurement 6.5, 180mm +/-20% (Minimum 144mm; Maximum 216mm)
- **Marking on the bales**: Ok/Nok 6.5, Marking expected: ICRC + 5 tarpaulins + PO number. Tarpaulins 4x6 m, No logo of the supplier allowed. Marking must be readable and strong enough to resist to several handlings. Country of origin upon request.
- **Bales strapping**: Ok/Nok 6.5, The bale must be strapped with 2 heat-sealed plastic straps for the length and 2 for the cross (strong enough to resist to several handlings)
- **Bales quality**: Ok/Nok 6.5, The bale must be wrapped with a piece of similar material as the one of the tarpaulins. The wrapping must be properly folded, closely tight to the bale content, making a well-shaped cubic bale. Inside the bales the tarpaulins are not individually wrapped.
- **Content**: Ok/Nok 6.5, There must be 5 tarpaulins per bale.

### Tarpaulins

- **Material for the plain sheet**: C, Ok/Nok 0, Woven high-density polyethylene (HDPE) black fibbers fabric laminated on both sides with white low density polyethylene (LDPE) coating.
- **Material for the reinforcement bands**: C, Ok/Nok 0, Woven black HDPE fibbers fabric and coated with grey LDPE on the outside.
- **Reinforced attachment points**: M, Ok/Nok 4.0, 6 bands of 75mm +/-3%. Pre-punched 8mm diameter holes on the 2 side bands at 0.1m +/-10 % intervals, positioned in the centre of the bands (only the reinforcement bands are pre-punched, not the tarpaulin itself). Position of the 6 bands and pre-punched holes as per drawing below. Side bands can be positioned at maximum 10mm from the edge. Dimension tolerance on the distance between two bands: +/-10mm.
- **Tear strength in plain sheet at state of origin**: Specific Measurement 4.0, Minimum 100N under ISO 4674-1B 2003, with a test piece of 200x200mm as described in ISO 4674 annex B , in plain sheet.
- **Tensile strength in plain sheet at state of origin**: Specific Measurement 4.0, Minimum 500N and 15% to 35% elongation in warp and weft in plain sheet under ISO 1421-1.
- **UV resistance of the plain sheet, measured as remaining tensile strength after UV exposure**: Specific Measurement 4.0, The tarpaulin tensile strength under ISO 1421-1 after 1500 hours UV under ASTM G53/94 (UVB 313 nm peak) must be: Minimum 80% of the original value of the actual product, AND not less than 475N. To be tested in the plain sheet.
- **Tensile strength in the reinforcement bands at state of origin**: Specific Measurement 4.0, Minimum 700N inside the reinforcement bands as per ISO 1421-1, pulling lengthwise in a pre-punched hole of 8mm with a hook of 8mm wire diameter. To test in 2 holes in each side bands.
- **UV resistance of the reinforcement bands measured as remaining tensile strength after UV exposure**: Specific Measurement 4.0, The reinforcement bands tensile strength under ISO 1421-1 after 1500 hours UV under ASTM G53/94 (UVB 313 nm peak) must be: Minimum 80% of the original value of the actual product, AND not less than 665N. To be tested inside the reinforcement bands as described above.
- **Welding number and strength at state of origin**: Specific Measurement 4.0, Only one welding allowed, in the middle of the sheet, length wise. The tarpaulin tensile strength crossways at the place of the welding under ISO 1421-1 must be: Minimum 50% of the original value of the actual product, AND not less than 400N.
- **Width**: Specific Measurement 6.5, 4000 mm ± 1% net width (Minimum 3960mm. Maximum 4040mm). If edges are not straight, measurement is done on the shortest side.
- **Length**: Specific Measurement 6.5, Minimum 6000mm. If edges are not straight, measurement is done on the shortest side.
- **Weight, plain sheet only, excluding the bands weight**: M, Measurement 4.0, 190g/m² ± 20g under ISO 3801 (equivalent to 170g/m² minimum to 210g/m² maximum).
- **Weight, complete sheet including bands weight**: M, Measurement 4.0, Plain sheet specific weight plus 10% additional weight for the reinforcement bands under ISO 3801. Total weight from 187g/m² minimum and 231g/m² maximum.
- **Coating colour**: Specific Measurement 4.0, White sun reflective on both sides of the sheet without fluctuation in colour. Grey coating on the outside of the bands. White Coating colour definition: L.a.b Coordinates under ISO 105J01 Minimum L : 82; "a" value between -1.7 and +1.5; "b" value between -4.5 and 0.
- **Yarn colour (plain sheet and bands)**: M, Measurement 4.0, Test protocol: removing the coating with a cutter, the yarns of the base fabric must be black in both the warp and the weft directions. Light grey is not acceptable.

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# AQL Tarpaulins

## Specifications and Quality Control

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<tr>
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<td>m</td>
<td>Ok/Nok</td>
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<td>Edges</td>
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<td>General quality</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Missing yarns</td>
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<td>Specific</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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</table>

### Measurement 4.0
- Measured under ISO 13468-1.
- Values should be measured respectively from 350 to 750nm, and from 750 to 2500nm wavelength. The final result is the average of the averages in each range.
- Minimum total reflection: 35%. Maximum total reflection: 50%. Maximum total transmission: 5%.

### Printing
- Continuous indelible printing in white colour on grey, or in black colour on white of the manufacturer name, the month and year of production (Letters of 2.5cm high +/-10%). Length indicator marks every meter. Customer logo on request.

### Edges
- Edges are straight and neat cut, and square.

### General quality
- Tarpaulin not torn, does not have any hole and must be clean.

### Missing yarns
- There must not be space between yarns > 5mm.

### Peeling of the coating
- Test protocol: try to pull the white coating from the base fabric. It should be impossible to pull pieces bigger than 1cm².

### Reinforcement bands welding
- The bands must be well sealed to the tarpaulin. Minimum 30 N, maximum 120 N resistance to pull the bands off according to ISO2411:2000 with following adjustments:
  - Only 5 test specimens in the longitudinal direction are tested per tarpaulin (each test is performed on a different band).
  - Width of the test specimens: width of the bands.
  - Test result is the arithmetic mean of the five tests.

### Central welding
- The two pieces making the tarpaulins must be well sealed together. Nevertheless, it must be possible to pull the seal off without tearing neither part of the tarpaulin. Minimum 30 N, maximum 120 N resistance to pull the seal off according to ISO2411:2000 with following adjustments:
  - Only 5 test specimens in the longitudinal direction are tested per tarpaulin.
  - Width of the test specimens: width of the welding.
  - Test result is the arithmetic mean of the five tests.

### Tear test in the plain tarpaulin (two legs test)
- Test protocol: Cut 4 pieces measuring 6cm x 20cm (2 lengthwise & 2 crosswise, outside the reinforcement bands). Make a very net cut of 8cm long with a scissor in the test pieces, making two equal legs. Clamp one leg of the test piece with the vice. Clamp the second leg with a clamp. Add weights so that the weight total is 10 Kg. Let it hang for 30 seconds. Tested pieces should not brake. If one piece of a tarpaulin breaks when applying 10 kg (or less) the tarpaulin is nonconforming.

### Tear test in the bands (hook test)
- Test protocol: Cut 4 pieces of approximately 20cm x 60cm in the bands, 2 in plain bands and 2 in pre-punched bands. Punch a hole of 8mm diameter through the bands, through the pre-punched hole if there is. The hole should be located at minimum 10cm from the end of the sample. Place the hook of 8mm diameter in the hole and add weights so that the weight total is 70kg weight. Let it hang for 30 seconds. Tested pieces should not brake. If one band of a tarpaulin breaks when applying 70 kg (or less) the tarpaulin is nonconforming.

### Reference drawing:

![Reference drawing](https://collab.ext.icrc.org/sites/LOG/Our Division/Quality Management/Quality reference documents/AQL Tarpaulins.xlsx)