

Standard Products Catalogue ICRC/IFRC

Sustainable information sheet (QSE sheet)

Product: Geodesic Family Tent

The below table is based on the Sustainable Criteria list available at:

<https://itemscatalogue.redcross.int/green--2/sustainable-procurement--25/sustainable-criteria--112/information-sheet-sustainable-procurement--SUSTAINABLE.aspx>

Environmental aspects	Achievements
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	<p>The preceding types of tents were lasting from few weeks to some months. This new tent will last at least 1 year, several years in most of the cases.</p> <p>In many cases the previous types of tents would very soon need the distribution of an additional cover. This is not the case with this tent.</p> <p>All requirements are described with supporting standard testing procedures, to ensure compliance with required specification. Refer to specification for details.</p>
Use long lasting products: FRAME	<p>The preceding types of tents were using painted steel pipes and/or polyester coated carbon fibres rods. This new tent uses aluminium pipes.</p> <p>Steel degrades by rusting in few years or less. The paint ends up in the environment as toxic elements. The rusted pipes are not reusable neither recyclable.</p> <p>Polyester coated carbon fibres degrade with UV in few years. The polyester ends up in the environment as plastic particles. The carbon fibres once de-coated present a physical danger for people (sharps).</p> <p>The new Aluminium frame does not degrade. It does not rust. It is not coated. It resists to wind speed of 100kmh. It can only brake or bend in extreme condition, which does not reduce its recycling possibilities. Even though the production carbon footprint of aluminium is much higher than the steel, its global footprint is lower due to its light weight, its recyclability and durability.</p>
Use long lasting products: COVER	<p>The preceding types of tents were made from Cotton before the 90's and Polyester/Cotton mix since then. This new tent is made of Improved Polyethylene sheets.</p>

	<p>The Cotton canvas degrades extremely fast in harsh climate, even with chemicals that are eventually washed by rain and ends up in soil and streams. Cotton is also a crop using a very large share of irrigation and chemicals in agriculture with dramatic impact on environment.</p> <p>The Polyester/Cotton canvas degrades in few months in harsh climate. The polyester ends up in the environment as plastic particles.</p> <p>Our improved specification for the Polyethylene sheets results in a much longer life span. It lasts many years even under very strong UV, without recurring to harmful additives. Combined with its high mechanical strength, this allows a very long lifespan, up to 10 years. The PE sheets will mainly degrade in large torn pieces, that can be collected. The part of PE that reduces into micro-particles is very minimal.</p>
Recycling raw material: FRAME	The aluminium frame pipes can be collected even after many years as they don't rust. Aluminium is 100% easily recyclable everywhere in the world. The commercial value of aluminium scrap is an incentive to collecting and recycling. This also creates an income generating activity.
Recycling raw material: COVER	<p>The polyethylene sheets can be recycled by the plastic industries. It is pure PE, not mixed with other types of plastics or any other materials, therefore easy to sort out and recycle everywhere in the world.</p> <p>This Polyethylene does not contain fire retardant such as bromide compound, reducing the chemical hazard during its use and its recycling.</p>
Reduced weight and volume compared to equivalent preceding products	<p>From 70kg in 2000, to 55kg in 2008, and to 45 kg in 2018, expected 40kg in 2022.</p> <p>The new materials (PE sheets and aluminium pipes) are lighter than the previous ones. The new design (geodesic structure) allows the highest strength with the minimum materials.</p>
Seek equipment that is energy efficient	For cold climate, a winter kit is available to improve the insulation and lower the fuel consumption.
Use materials with reduced effect on environment due to their intrinsic nature	Major components are Polyethylene for the cover, and aluminium for the pipes. Both are very long lasting and 100% recyclable.

No (or reduced) polluting with minimum use of toxic chemicals, CFCs ozone and other pollutants	The PE is Fire retardant above the expectation, without using bromide products. This reduces the toxicity from the previous Polycotton canvas.
100% biodegradable material when biodegradability in the environment is foreseen	Not applicable. It is not foreseen that the various components of the tent will degrade in the environment. The very long life span should allow collecting and recycling.
Whenever possible, the use of recycled or re-used materials should be encouraged	The aluminium industry is using 1/3 of recycled material in raw aluminium production. Aluminium is indefinitely recyclable.
Use of materials and products that can have a second life in a different usage	
Second life: FRAME	The aluminium frame pipes can be reused in many versatile usages, as they don't rust.
Second life: COVER	Due to its long lifespan, the Polyethylene cover can be reused for making many different items after its primary usage as a tent. It was observed that the PE sheeting has been used for making car tarpaulins, all kind of waterproof covers, big bags for waste collection, handbags, raincoats, etc.
Use equipment that have a high rate of reparability when applicable	<p>The Family Tent can be repaired or improved locally with low technology.</p> <p>The aluminum frame can be repaired with the provided repair sleeve (spare piece of aluminum pipe to repair the frame components).</p>
When products are made up of several types of material, particularly plastics and metals, the ease of disassembly is taken into consideration. Particularly relevant for electronic and electrical products.	All the tent panels are 100% made of PE. The pipes are 100% aluminum. The pegs are 100% made of steel. The ropes are 100% made of either PE or PP or PES, not mixed. This makes the tent materials easy to separate for recycling.
Use of materials that can be collected and recycled, particularly in low technology environment.	<p>Due to its long lifespan, the Polyethylene cover can be collected before it degrades into micro particles. The aluminium will not degrade then can be collected even after many years.</p> <p>In low tech environment, plastics industries are using PE from waste collection and aluminium as well. Even though cleaner industrial practices should be encouraged.</p>

Minimum packaging. Reducing the packaging to the minimum although enabling the product to survive poor handling. Optimize palletization and TC loading.	<p>The tent packaging includes only one main bag and one accessories bag. All thin plastics films have been removed from previous packaging. The main bag and the accessories bag are made of the same very durable PE sheet as the tent cover.</p> <p>Ready to ship weight/volume ratio is adapted to ISO standard transport containers (TC) and also to airfreight (1MT to 5m3)</p>
Favour manufacturing processes that facilitate pollution control. Proper waste management in the production site	The raw materials are produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply.
Manage sourcing in a way that reduces the environmental impact and facilitates the application of social standards	The tents are produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply and social standards are up to the legal requirements or above.

Social aspects	
Ethical standards	
The ICRC/IFRC code of conduct for purchasing strives to ensure the ICRC highest ethical standards and ethical standards from our suppliers too. Each person undertaking any purchasing activity in the ICRC signs this document.	<p>The lead buyers are applying the Codes of Conduct and Ethics, ensuring the ethical standards are respected along the supply chain.</p> <p>Audited by internal services.</p>
The ICRC/IFRC Ethical Purchasing policy is being implemented. Criteria on working conditions, hygiene and security, safety, child labour, and environmental concerns are assessed in the manufacturing units. Position on Ethical Policy for Purchasing (icrc.org)	<p>The Family Tents manufacturing plants have been validated, ensuring the ethical standards are respected.</p> <p>Manufacturers are encouraged to implemented progress actions, following recommended international standards.</p> <p>Audited by our services.</p>
Social impact: labour and deontological practices, Health and safety, hardship working conditions, etc.	The Family Tents manufacturing plants have been validated, ensuring the social standards are respected.

Economic impact, value for money	
Maximum durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability and upgradeability:	As exposed above, the Family Tent is extremely durable as a tent. It can be

	<p>upgraded with the addition of the winter kit where required, or with local materials, the tent providing a waterproof roof cover to any type of locally made shelter. The inner volume is optimized to offer the maximum space with the less material.</p> <p>Materials are reusable and recyclable. The aluminium is a valuable material that can generate incomes as a raw material.</p>
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	Very durable product providing a long usage without replacement.
Reparability is also considered during the design of the product.	<p>The Family Tent can be repaired or improved locally with low technology.</p> <p>The aluminium frame can be repaired with the provided repair sleeve.</p>
Seek products that enable updated and improve performance.	Performance can be improved by adding the winter kit. It can also receive locally made improvement such as wood or bamboo poles for creating shades on the four sides.
Anti-fraud policy	
ICRC/IFRC policy to prevent fraud and corruption for all staff members and external partners	The anti-fraud policy guaranty the proper application of the product specification through a well-controlled purchasing process, a transparent and reliable quality control, and tight supervision of the inspection companies in particular during factory visits.