



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

ÄRZTE OHNE GRENZEN

MSF-OCG ENERGY Policy

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Context

Electricity ⁽¹⁾ is vital in MSF missions. Local sources are rare and often unreliable; therefore electricity is in many occasions generated by the project.

Electricity is a field that needs to be treated with caution, in order to prevent danger to people and equipment.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to establish the principles to be followed in order to rationalise energy means and guarantee the personnel safety of electrical installations, the protection of electrical equipment and the continuity of services depending on electricity.

Scope

This policy applies to all electrical installations in MSF-OCG field infrastructures, be it accommodations, offices, warehouses or health structures.

Definitions

“Energy” ⁽¹⁾	The most common form of energy within MSF is electricity; therefore this policy refers only to electricity.
Country Specific Policy (CSP)	The CSP is a document written specifically for a mission which defines the overall policy as applied in the mission.

Content

1. Country Specific Energy Policy [CSP]

- 1.1. The CSP – which clarifies aspects specific to the context - shall be drafted by the CoTL according to the template provided, submitted to HQ for validation, and then distributed to all staff. It shall be implemented by the CoTL, reviewed annually and updated when necessary.
- 1.2. A CSP may never contradict any aspect of the overall MSF-OCG Policy.

2. Personnel safety and equipment protection

- 2.1. Any electrical installation should comply with the MSF OCG safety standard, or with local laws and regulations, whichever one is stricter.
- 2.2. MSF personnel assigned to work on electrical installations should be competent and professional. Thus, adequate recruitment, briefing, training and evaluation procedures should be put in place.
- 2.3. In any project, one person shall be assigned to be responsible for the quality of the electrical installations.
- 2.4. When an intervention is evaluated as exceeding local capacities, support should be requested to MSF OCG headquarters.

3. Response to operational needs

- 3.1. Any installation should be based on proper analysis of energy needs, well designed, well maintained and well documented.
 - Energy needs (both operational and team life needs) should be clearly identified; therefore a listing of all consumers and their working schedule should be made, using MSF standard tools. Team life energy needs should be clarified in the Country Specific Energy Policy (Annex 1)
 - Energy sources should be selected and dimensioned to respond to these needs.
 - The risk of power interruptions should be analysed and a strategy for backup power put in place. This strategy should be detailed in the Country Specific Energy Policy. The analysis shall include these essential consumers: equipment for cold chain, telecom, operating theatres and labs.

- Any electrical installation should be diagnosed, tested and maintained regularly by competent and professional personnel.

4. Selection, mobilisation and best use of resources (material, financial and HR)

- 4.1. Selection and procurement of equipment
 - Selection and procurement of energy equipment, spares and consumables shall be in accordance with the annex 2 “*Procurement and technical validation rules*” and in full compliance with the MSF-ITC catalogue specifications and justification requirements for PELE and PLIG families, as well as KPRO articles containing PELE and PLIG articles.
 - In case local supply channels or select alternative equipment - marked as “*to be justified*” - are opted for, the COTL shall conduct a local market & technical analysis that is systematically submitted to the HQ with backing-up arguments for analysis, support and approval.
 - The supplier shall be required to guarantee supply of spares and consumables, and - when relevant - provide a full support package.
- 4.2. Any electrical installation should be based on a technical analysis, using MSF standard decision making tools.
 - Any electrical installation should be as simple as possible.
 - Any electrical installation should be correctly documented as detailed in the applicable guidelines.
- 4.3. The quality of locally available electrical equipment shall be evaluated by the CoTL, possibly through delegation to a qualified person.
- 4.4. New technologies, though to be encouraged, should only be used after evaluation and when presenting clear benefits (ref §3.1). Adoption of new technologies shall be conducted in accordance with §5.4
- 4.5. The running costs of any electrical installation should be regularly analysed and reported: energy bills, fuel consumption, purchase, installation and maintenance costs of energy sources etc.
- 4.6. Measures for rational energy use should be put in place and detailed in the Country Specific Policy on energy.
 - Within the scope of operational needs, energy consumption should be limited as much as possible.
 - Energy sources should be selected and dimensioned in order to rationalise running costs and energy consumption
 - The number of electrical consumers should correspond to the needs. Where possible energy efficient equipment should be selected. Whenever possible, a working schedule should be implemented for large consumers.

5. Support materials, HR, training, standardisation and innovation

- 5.1. In its HR management OCG shall favour the maintaining and animation of a pool of electricity specialists (internal or external).
- 5.2. The support departments shall continue to develop and update procedures, technical guides and other information in support of field staff involved with energy equipment.
- 5.3. MSF-OCG shall continue to develop training materials and investigate external training options which comply with OCG policy and strategy.
- 5.4. Through participation in international working groups and platforms MSF-OCG will contribute to the development of standards in energy equipment which answer to operational needs.
- 5.5. All involved parties are encouraged to seek new innovations which could answer to field needs, identified or anticipated. When innovation offers a clear benefit it shall be evaluated, developed, and adopted in accordance with the document “MSF-OCG Process of Innovation”.