

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (भारत सरकार)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्रालय)
RAILWAY BOARD (रेलवे बोर्ड)

रेल भवन, नई दिल्ली - ११०००१, तिथि

Rail Bhavan, New Delhi - 110001, dated 28 02.2023

No. 2022/Sec(Spl)/6/14

**Principal Chief Security Commissioners/RPF,
RPSF & All Zonal Railways & PUs and other Units**

Inspectors General (Construction) - ECoR & NR

Directors,

JR RPF Academy, Lucknow & RPF Training Centre, Moula Ali &
Zonal Training Center/Kharagpur/SER,

Chief Security Commissioner / KRCL & RDSO

SECURITY CIRCULAR No. 01/2023

**Sub: Guidelines for escorting of arms & ammunitions by RPF/RPSF
being transited.**

In the course of examining the cases seeking deployment of strength of armed RPF/RPSF personnel for transporting arms & ammunition (A&A), it was observed that standard guidelines in RPF/RPSF for providing strength of escort component for A&A being transited are not available.

Arms and ammunition of security forces have always been an attraction for the anti-national and anti-social elements to give shape to their nefarious activities. This makes A&A as well as the security personnel (RPF/RPSF in this case) susceptible to attack by the anti-national/criminal elements during transit of A&A.

In prevailing security scenario, it is important to provide foolproof security to arms and ammunition. In order to protect arms, ammunition and other explosives and preventing these from falling in the hands of undesirable and unscrupulous elements, it is extremely essential that during transit of arms & ammunition, appropriate component of armed escort with adequate number of personnel may be provided. Necessary care needs to be exercised during transport of arms & ammunition by the officers and Jawans of RPF / RPSF as loss / snatching of A&A not only causes loss of life/injury to force personnel during the incident, but these A/A also become potential danger when they land in the hands of anti-social and insurgent elements. Such incidents also result in loss of image of RPF.

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A) **Factors for security of A&A:** It is required that the adequately armed Escort party with prescribed strength may be deployed as per the prevailing security scenario, duly considering the national threat perception and local vulnerability analysis. The threat avoidance and countering the same, extent of vulnerability, level of security required, quantity of A&A being transported, method of dispatch (rail, road, etc.), law & order situation in stations/region, legacy issues regarding security in the region through which the train or vehicle passes, etc. may be the key determinants for deployment of escort.

B) **Communication regarding movement of A&A and Escort parties:** In respect of communication / correspondence about the deployment and movement of Escort parties, their strength, arms & ammunition being carried by them may be done through confidential / secret correspondence.

C) **Role of Central Armoury:** Central Armoury unit at Dayabasti is a Nodal Wing for Railway Protection Force (Rule 10 of RPF Rules, 1987) for procurement and distribution of arms & ammunition for the use of troops in RPF in Zonal Railways and RPSF. These arms & ammunition are brought to Central Armoury from various Ordnance Factories in India, mostly through rail transport. At times, the form of transport is hybrid involving rail and road transports. Necessary deployment of armed security personnel is needed to be done accordingly.

D) **Inter Zonal & Inter Divisional movement:** Movement of arms & ammunition takes place through routes cutting across various Zones. Similarly, such movement may take place from one Division to another or from Training centre to Divisional headquarters or vice-versa, within Zone. Also, the movement of arms & ammunition takes place during Annual Range Classification firing in the Divisions / Battalions. Besides above, there is movement of arms & ammunition for the trainees who undergo training / firing exercises at JR RPF Academy, Zonal Training Centres or Training centres/Firing Ranges of Army, Civil Police or CAPFs.

There is no short-cut to security and all instructions in the book need to be executed to the very detail for ensuring that the arms & ammunition being carried are safely ferried to the destination. To accomplish this, it is expected that the Officers and Jawans should follow the guidelines in letter and spirit and therefore, it is reiterated that, the members of Escort party should be briefed and de-briefed by the unit in-charges and in-charges of Escort parties.

As such, the broad guidelines which may be followed are as under:

E. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

In supersession of all previous instructions on the subject, the following instructions are issued for strict compliance:

- i. One officer (IPF or above) of 6BN/RPSF/DBSI, who will be nominated by Sr. CO/6BN/RPSF, will report to GM/ Ordnance Factory concerned, in advance, with following relevant papers:

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- a) Movement Order.
- b) His ID card bearing his photograph, personal details, identification marks and signature
- c) Authority letter duly signed by a Gazetted Officer indicating his name and rank clearly
- d) Copy of Release Order.
- e) Credit note for booking of stores from workshop to destination, if the transportation is to be done through railways.

This officer will be called 'Collection in-charge.'

- ii. On arrival, the Escort Party in-charge will report to Collection in-charge.
- iii. Whenever an escort party is detailed for the escort of arms & ammunition/ other Ordnance items, the concerned Collection in-charge will ensure that the Escort Party in-charge is properly briefed about the safety/precautions during transportation of the arms & ammunition and keep having all relevant papers available.
- iv. In case of weapons being collected from Ordnance Factory, the Collection in-charge and Escort Party in-charge will ensure that the inspection of each weapon has been carried out by an Armourer and is clearly mentioned in form RPF/A-05. Under no circumstances, the Collection in-charge and Escort Party in-charge will accept any defective weapon(s). Similarly, as far as collection of ammunition is concerned, collection in-charge and escort party in-charge will take account of the ammunition if provided in sealed boxes and physically count those handed over in loose condition. She/he should take over the ammunition by signing the voucher when fully satisfied with its correctness as well as after due verification by ammunition expert Armourer. The collection in-charge, escort party in-charge and other officers will in collectively and severally responsible for correct accountal, safe transit and correct deposit of A/A at the destination as per directions laid down in the Security Circular 01/2022.
- v. Collection in-charge and Escort Party in-charge will ensure that each member of escort party including the escort party in-charge must be having a valid ID card. She/he will specifically brief the members of escort party and reiterate the Dos & Don'ts, even at the cost of repetition.
- vi. The arms & ammunition utilized by RPF/RPSF can be transported through road, rail or hybrid mode (road and rail).
- vii. The following procedure may be adopted in respect of transportation of arms & ammunition by the modes discussed below:
 - a) BY ROAD:
 - i. Information regarding transportation of arms, ammunition and explosives must be restricted to "NEED TO KNOW BASIS".
 - ii. Each and every member of the escort party must be briefed in detail about the task, the movement plan, the route and the contingency plan before the movement of the party.



- iii. Addresses/ telephone numbers of RPF posts, other security Forces and Police Station located en-route must be available with all members of the escort party.
- iv. Adequate number of torch lights/ emergency lights (duly charged), Rain coats/umbrellas depending on the weather conditions and 02 Nos. or more Durries/Tarpaulin should be carried for contingencies.
- v. Each member of escorting party must carry walkie-talkie in working condition with fully charged battery and another spare fully charged battery. In case of transportation in convoy, at least one walkie-talkie in each vehicle should be provided by the concerned unit. Vehicles must be mechanically 'fit' for plying on road and should have adequate tools for repairs.
- vi. Un-authorized stores/items should not be kept in vehicle.
- vii. Availability of 'First Aid Box' in each vehicle should be ensured.
- viii. Before movement, Escort Party in-charge will check identity cards, personal weapons and ammunition of each member of the escort party.
- ix. Sufficient cash imprest should be made available to the escort party in-charge to meet any emergent requirement en-route. Cash imprest may be taken from Zone/Div./Bn. Hqrs. to meet any exigency or unforeseen requirements.
- x. Party will undertake road journey in day only. No vehicle movement should be done in dark. Necessary planning must be ensured.
- xi. Party will make night halt at nearest Police Station or any RPF/ other CAPF units.
- xii. In case of any eventuality like breakdown / Accident of vehicles, escort party in-charge will immediately intimate the same to his Unit in-charge, concerned Divisional Security Commissioner and the Principal Chief Security Commissioner and will seek necessary assistance from nearby RPF Unit, if any or the local Police Station, as the case may be.
- xiii. Under no circumstances the arms and ammunition will be shifted from one vehicle to other during transportation. It may be done only if the vehicle carrying the arms and ammunition has met with an accident or is to be repaired. If such action is necessary and inevitable, all security precaution must be observed.
- xiv. If the consignment loaded in the vehicle has to be unloaded for carrying out repairs of vehicle, local labourers will be hired for unloading and loading only with the help and knowledge of Local Police. Expenditure for the same can be met from the cash imprest available with the Escort Party in-charge, which may be adjusted as per procedure subsequently against the appropriate fund / head.
- xv. After repair of the vehicle, if arms & ammunitions are loaded, Escort Party in-charge will ensure proper loading of arms/ammunitions in the vehicle. During transportation, the key responsibility for the safety and security of the arms & ammunition will be of the Escort party in-charge. However, responsibility of

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different officials will be determined as per Security Circular 01/2022.

- xvi. Portable/Hand held Fire-Extinguisher may be carried along by the escort party.
- xvii. Destination division may assist the collection in-charge and escort in-charge in logistics, in terms of lodging, fooding transport for local movement of A&A and personnel, etc.

During transportation of arms & ammunition, the composition of escort party will be as follows:-

SL No.	Consignment	Manpower					
		AC	INSP	SI/ASI	HC	CT	TOTAL
AMMUNITION							
1	Ammn 01 to 01 Lakh Rds.	-	1	1	1	4	07
2	Ammn 01 Lakh to 05 Lakh Rds.	-	1	1	1	6	09
3	Ammn more than 05 Lac Rds.	-	1	1	1	12	15
ARMS							
1	up to 25 Weapons/03 chest	-	1	1	1	4	07
2	up to 50 Weapons/05 chest	-	1	1	1	8	11
3	up to 100 Rifles/10 chest	-	1	1	2	10	14
4	101 & above up to 500 Rifles	1	1	1	2	12	17
5	01 Guard Brake / heavy consignment	1	1	2	2	14	20

Further, the following should be noted:

- a) Each escort party should include one Armourer for checking of the weapons.
- b) Each vehicle carrying arms & ammunition shall be escorted by the SO.
- c) The members of fatigue party, if required, may be co-opted through proper briefing by *collection in-charge and Escort party in-charge*

Note: The Escorting contingent consisting of Officers and staff will be in bullet proof jacket and helmet as per the scale while Escorting i.e.

For Ammunition: S. No. 1 & 2- 50%, S. No. 3- 25% of strength.

For Arms: S. No. 1 to 5- 50%, 40%, 33%, 25% and 20% of strength.

All GOs/SOs deployed will wear BP jacket & Helmet during fair duty while escorting arms & ammunition.



b) BY RAIL:

As far as possible, the arms and ammunition shall be transported by train and following instructions will be strictly adhered to by the escort party in-charge:-

- i. Prior to departure of Escort Party for collection of arms & ammunitions by train, the concerned Sr. CO/CO/Sr.DSC/DSC will ensure that travel plan in the shortlisted train for to and fro journeys of Escort Party is intimated to Asstt. Commandant/Central Armoury/ 6th BN/RPSF DBSI and CO/Small Arms.
- ii. The members of the escort parties deputed for escorting the A&A may not be informed about the movement and the purpose too much in advance.
- iii. There is a tendency to depute such personnel for escorting duty who belong to such location which is close to the destination, from where the A&A are being picked or ferried to. Some of these personnel may be tempted to sneak out to visit their native places. This scenario may be strictly avoided and COs/Sr.DSCs/ DSCs must ensure the same. This hold true for the members of fatigue party, if any, as well as armourers.
- iv. Many a times the messaging regarding movement of A&A is resorted to by way of orders/communication through Control Room only. As far as possible, such messaging may be limited to 'most necessary' only.
- v. Concerned Sr. CO/CO/Sr.DSC/DSC will also ensure the accommodation, transportation and other logistics at destination point for the of escort party in their jurisdiction.
- vi. *To avoid any communication gap and have a proper control over the escort personnel, escort party in-charge will necessarily travel in the same compartment in which the escort personnel are travelling.*
- vii. Escort party will remain vigilant and alert at all times to face any eventuality.
- viii. Collection in-charge will ensure that arms and ammunition have been booked in VPU/SLR.
- ix. Concerned Sr.CO/CO/Sr.DSC/DSC shall make efforts to get the reservation of escort party personnel in compartment near VPU/SLR in which arms and ammunition has been booked, if possible.
- x. Escort party in-charge will ensure that unloading from one train to other is done under his personnel supervision and proper sentries should be detailed according to the local requirement.
- xi. Concerned RPF post in-charge will remain present at railway station with sufficient staff at the time of loading and unloading of arms and ammunition.
- xii. Escort party in-charge will ensure the availability of 'First Aid Box' during the movement.
- xiii. Expenditure for the same can be meted out of the cash imprest made available to the Party in-charge, which may be accounted for as per procedure in the appropriate fund/ head. The expenditure through imprests should strictly

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be for meeting the expenditure of unforeseen and urgent nature only.

- xiv. The visit of member(s) of escort party to washroom during train movement may be highly alert.
- xv. Derailment/Accident of train: In case of derailment / accident in vulnerable section, the escort party should be extremely cautious as there could a possibility of such an incident taking place due to subversive activity by LWE/anti-social groups. It should be the endeavour of the escort party to ensure security of the arms & ammunition despite the odd situation arising out of derailment, etc. and contribute if required towards the rescue and relief efforts after rational analysis of the situation, so prevailing, at the site.

During the transportation of arms & ammunition by train, the composition of escort party will be as follows:-

SL No.	Consignment	Manpower					
		AC	INSP	SI/ASI	HC	CT	TOTAL
AMMUNITION							
1	Ammn 01 to 01 Lakh Rds.	-	1	1	1	4	07
2	Ammn 01 Lakh to 05 Lakh Rds.	-	1	1	2	6	10
3	Ammn more than 05 Lac Rds	1	1	1	2	12	17
ARMS							
1	up to 25 Weapons/03 chest	-	1	1	1	5	08
2	up to 50 Weapons/05 chest	-	1	1	1	8	11
3	up to 100 Weapons/10 chest	-	1	2	2	10	15
4	101 & above up to 300 Rifles	1	1	2	2	12	18
5	Above 300 Weapons or 1 wagon load / heavy consignment	1	1	2	3	18	25

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- a) Each escort party should include one Armourer for checking of weapons.
- b) The member of fatigue party, if required, may be co-opted and proper briefing by *collection In-charge and Escort party In-charge* may be ensured.

NOTE- 02: The Escorting contingent consisting of Officers and staff will be in bullet proof jacket and helmet as per the scale while Escorting i.e.

For Ammunition: S. No. 1 & 2- 50%, S. No. 3- 25% of strength.

For Arms: S. No. 1 to 5- 50%, 40%, 33%, 25% and 20% of strength.

All GOs/SOs deployed will wear BP jacket & Helmet during fair duty while escorting arms & ammunition.

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viii. Other instructions

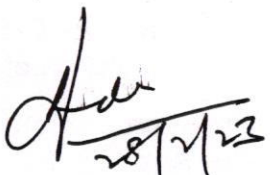
1. There is a tendency of seeking help of vendors/coolies and private porters at the Railway Station for physically shifting the arms chests from trains to vehicles or vice-versa. This may be strictly avoided and fatigue parties of local RPF or RPSF may be utilized for the purpose.
2. The arrangements should be made (for transportation of consignment by train) in consultation with higher railway authority of Operating/Commercial department for arranging the first guard brake near the Loco (earlier used by Asst. Guard) for the following reasons:
 - a. This sub-compartment of train is empty in almost at all times, in most of the trains.
 - b. The part component of escort party will be in a closest position to the consignment of arms & ammunition.
 - c. The escort party will not have to go to other portion of train for washroom as toilets are available in the brake
 - d. Seats are also available for seating some members of the escort party.
 - e. The consignment is fully secure once the doors are closed / patched from inside and no passengers/outside personnel would board.
3. These instructions aim at laying down general guidelines only.

Strength of escort party shall be further strengthened, if required, keeping in mind the prevailing security scenario of the state/area through which consignment is to move.

The decision to enhance the strength of the escort party lies with the Sr. DSC of the concerned Division, who may augment the strength based on threat perception/security scenario in co-ordination with the corresponding officers of concerning Zones/Divisions and under intimation to Principal Chief Security Commissioner.

As such, the norms suggested above are the basic minimum which in any case, must be adhered to, as per the scale of arms and ammunition.

4. It may be noted that in future all movement of arms & ammunition for Central Armoury from one place to another will be carried out under the overall supervision of the Sr. CO/6th BN/RPSF/DBSI.


(Sanjay Chander)
Director General/RPF
Railway Board