



FORCE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BRITISH FORCE IN GERMANY

STANDING INSTRUCTION 1010

REGISTRATION OF DOGS

SPONSOR: GEO-J1

**“UP TO DATE VERSIONS OF FSI(G) ARE AVAILABLE FOR
VIEWING ON THE GEO WEBSITE POLICY CENTRE”**

FOREWORD

References:

- A. [NATO SOFA](#)
- B. [Supplementary Agreement to NATO SOFA](#)

1. **Audience.** Unless the context otherwise requires, these Instructions are applicable to all members of the UK Armed Forces, MOD Civilians, UK Contractors and entitled dependants (herein collectively referred as 'The Force') serving in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).
2. **Sanctions.** The UKStratCom Germany Enabling Office is empowered to impose sanctions on Members of the Force who are discovered to be abusing those privileges provided through the terms of the Agreement.

Lt Colonel AW Maw MBE CEng REME
Head of Mission

Definitions

4. There are several critical areas for understanding throughout these Orders and their supporting Instructions. This Section seeks to provide clarity to enable the reader to review all Force Policy in the appropriate context.

5. **Dependent(s):**

a. **Depende(a)nt.** The term 'Dependent' used throughout the Agreement is derived from US English and has the same meaning as the English Dependant.

"Oxford English Dictionary Meaning: A person who relies on another, especially a family member, for financial support"

b. **Interpretation(s).** In interpreting Force Policy, the term 'Dependent' needs further clarity which is not readily apparent when the term is in daily use:

(1) **Family Dependent.** Head of Households may view any other member of the family unit resident in the Family Home as 'Dependent' no matter what any personnel, financial, medical, other, circumstances might be; a son, a daughter et al can always be thus. This is not denied but is not recognised in policy.

(2) **Employer (MOD) Interpretation.** This is provided in respect of MOD Crown servants but is applicable to all Reference B contractors to the MOD. Bringing to the fore the MOD JSP 752, it provides the following definition in relation to children but at the same time informs the interpretation of Dependent:

JSP 752 Tri-Service Regulations (Ver 40 dated Oct 19)

02.0109. Child. For the purpose of these regulations, except where otherwise stated, a child is defined as a legitimate or legitimated child or step-child of either or both of the spouses/civil partners; a child statutorily adopted by either or both of the spouses/civil partners; a child of the family (a legal term meaning any other child who is being brought up in the household of the husband/wife/civil partners at their expense or was so being brought up immediately before the spouses/civil partners were estranged, separated by legal order, divorced or the civil partnership was dissolved or before the death of the husband, wife or civil partner). A child is deemed to be below the age of majority (18 years). If over that age, a son or daughter must be 24 years or under, unmarried or not in a civil partnership and in receipt of full-time education at a school, college or university (studying for a first degree only) or be out of full-time education for up to one year between secondary education and further education. The age limits do not apply to a son or daughter who is physically or mentally incapable of contributing to their own support.

There are other areas of JSP that inform of the requirements to be determined as a Dependent of a Crown Servant; for which when Dependent status is acknowledged by the Employer, the MOD, supporting Policy, Process and Procedure (= entitlement) is provided e.g. size of provision of Publicly Provided Service Accommodation, FRMS at Public Expense, Overseas Allowance...

(3) **Dependent of the Force.** The definition of 'Dependent of the Force' is informed through References A and B:

"NATO SOFA Art. 1. (C). In this Agreement the expression c. 'dependent' means the spouse of a member of a force or a civilian component, or a child of such

member depending on him or her for support; “See 5.b.(2) for definition of a child as provided by the MOD.

“Supplementary Agreement (SA) Art. 2.(a). A close relative of a member of a force or of a civilian component not falling within the definition contained in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article I of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement who is financially or for reasons of health dependent on, and is supported by, such member, who shares the quarters occupied by such member and who is present in the Federal territory with the consent of the authorities of the force shall be considered to be, and treated as, a dependent within the meaning of that provision.

6. **Dependent of the Force Provision.** Relating to Para 5. It can be understood the Germany Enabling Office is not the authority for the provision of the term ‘Dependent’ nor subsequent entitlement to ‘Dependent’ provision. That authority is vested solely in the MOD. The Germany Enabling Office compliments the MOD provision of ‘Dependent’ with ‘Dependent of the Force’. Where the MOD has provided ‘Dependent Status’; ‘Dependent of the Force’ and provision follows as appropriate to any circumstance. No member of any Force household should be present in the Force without the consent of the authority (MOD); for which entitlement and screening process exist.

7. Present in Germany and present in the Force are 2 different things; a member of any household present in Germany is not considered for ‘Dependent of the Force’ status unless they are acknowledged as a dependent and in Germany with the consent of the authorities of the Force, the MOD.

AMENDMENT RECORD

Amendment No	Amended by	Signature	Date

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REGISTRATION AND CONTROLLING DOGS OWNED BY FORCE PERSONNEL

Introduction

1. The German Federal and Länder authorities passed laws in Jul 2000 regarding dog ownership and dog control which affects all dog owners coming to or living in Germany, this includes all UK Defence Personnel (The Force) registered with the UK Authority-GEO. The laws banned outright certain breeds of dog, which may not be brought into Germany. UK personnel that own banned breeds and are assigned to Germany, will not be permitted to bring their dog with them and will be required to return the dog to the UK should they arrive with a banned breed of dog. Personnel already serving in Germany should not attempt to purchase a banned breed of dog, as they will not be permitted to register the dog with the GEO or any Host Nation (HN) local authority.

Force Dog Registration

2 Force personnel that arrive in Germany with a dog or decide to purchase a dog during their assignment, irrespective of breed, must register their dog within 14 days with their relevant NSE.

NSE Responsibility

3. It is the responsibility of the NSE to ensure that the registration process has been carried out and details have been added to the SOFA DB using [SharePoint list Dog Register Form](#). This form/the process is a part of on an overarching intent to remove the requirement for repeated entry of repetitive information across the Force administration. To achieve this, it utilises information already recorded in the SOFA DB but requires the use of the members 'Force Member ID'; this ID is provided to the NSE in their SOFA DB output Excel. The form is presented at Enclosure 1 with some instruction.

4. The NSE is to ensure that the individual dog owners have been advised that it is their personal responsibility to ensure that their dog(s) are registered with the German Local Authority applicable to the area in which they reside¹.

5. An example of a Manual Registration form is available at Annex A. for use by the customer under guidance from the NSE if required. This form should only be used to provide the information to the GEO as a Business Continuity Plan (BCP), should the SharePoint be unavailable.

Dog Owner Responsibility

6. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that they have registered with the NSE and the German Local Authority, applicable to the area in which they reside, within 14 days of arrival, or purchase of a dog.

7. The owner of a dog is personally responsible for the behaviour of their animal. All Länder (Counties/Areas) require the owner to hold liability insurance for each dog. The maximum insurance sums vary dependant on the area of residence (region); however, it should cover in the region of EUR 1,000,000 per incident.

Legislation Applying to all of Germany - Federal Importation Ban

8. The following dog breeds are banned from being imported into Germany².

¹ Force personnel that have their RWA in Paderborn are only required to register with the NSE (Welfare Office) due to local agreement with the GSU/Paderborn Ordnungsamt.

² Dangerous Dogs in Germany – <https://www.zoll.de/EN/Private-individuals/Travel/Entering-Germany/Restrictions/Dangerous-dogs/dangerous-dogs.html>

- a. Pit-bull Terriers.
- b. Bull Terriers
- c. American Staffordshire Terriers.
- d. Staffordshire Bull Terriers.
- e. Cross Breeds from any of the above.

9. [Further breeds](#) are also banned in certain regional areas of Germany.

Dog Ownership Registration with GEO

10. The GEO is required to hold information on the ownership of dogs by Force personnel, in order to provide a level of assurance to the Host Nation.

11. Registration with the Force does not negate the responsibility of the owner to register their dog(s) with the Local Host Nation Authority³. There are variations on ownership and handling of respective breeds, dependant on region, adherence to these regulations remain the owner's personal responsibility.

12. The Host Nation regulations for dog ownership and registration in Germany are predicated on where an individual resides, not where the individual is assigned (employed). Whilst there is no requirement for Force personnel to pay dog tax (Hundesteuer), the Sending Force is required to ensure that its personnel remain compliant with Host Nation legislation, this includes dog ownership. There are variations on the laws and regulations concerning ownership and handling of dogs in Germany.

Procedures and regulations for ownership of dogs by Force personnel

13. **Category 1.** These are Dogs that are classed as Dangerous due to their breed; it also includes cross breeds regardless of the mix of breed. Regional variations will apply; owners must check with their Local Stadt to confirm breeds to which this applies in their area of residence.

14. **Category 2.** This is any dog, irrespective of its breed, that has demonstrated that it is dangerous, by aggressive behaviour towards humans or animals. Dogs can be reclassified as a Category 2 dog if deemed necessary. If a case is highlighted to the NSE, the owner may be required to have their dog reviewed by a Host Nation Veterinary Practice at personal expense. Failure to comply may result in registration of the dog being withdrawn and the dog having to be returned to the UK.

15. Category 1 and 2 dog owners must comply with the following.

- a. Pass a 'Knowledge Test' in order to prove competency to handle and retain ownership of their dog with a Host Nation Veterinary Practice.
- b. Dogs must be 'at all times' on a leash and may require to be muzzled, unless the dog has passed the requisite character test and the owner has a permit from a Host Nation Veterinary Practice, which must be carried at all times⁴.

16. **Category 3.** These are dogs that reach a shoulder height of 40 cm or greater or weigh 20 kg (or more) when fully grown. Owners of dogs, classified as Category 3, will be subject to a

³ Variations may apply dependant on local arrangements by individual NSEs.

⁴ No other dogs, irrespective of the breed or size require muzzling.

'Knowledge Test', before the registration of these dogs can be approved⁵. Certain owners will be exempt from the Test if they meet the following criteria.

- a. They hold a valid, in date, German Hunting Permit, or
- b. They have passed a German Hunting Examination.

17. **Category 4.** These are all other dogs not covered by category 1-3, there are no exceptional regulations for registration, however all dogs owned by personnel with SOFA Status must be registered with the Force.

18. **Third Party Liability Insurance.** All owners of dogs must have third party liability insurance for their dogs in order to register them with the Force⁶.

19. **NSE Dog Tags.** NSEs may wish to issue their own dog tags⁷ in place of, or in addition to any tag that may be issued by the Local German Authority. If a dog tag is issued it should be recorded as part of the registration process.

Requirements for all Dogs regardless of Category

20. In addition to any category restrictions, all dogs must be registered with the owners relevant NSE and conform with the following regulations.

- a. Liability insurance for their dog.
- b. Owners '*should*' have a valid Pet Passport for their dog⁸.
- c. They must have a microchip implanted.
- d. Owners are responsible for keeping their dog(s) animal under control at all times⁹.
- e. Dogs must always be kept on a lead in public places or within built-up areas¹⁰.
- f. Dogs must be accompanied by the owner, or other person over 18 that is authorised to handle the dog¹¹.
- g. In open country dogs must be kept under proper control. Game wardens have considerable rights, which may include shooting the dog if it is considered not to be under control.

21. It is a personal responsibility for dog owners to ensure that their dogs are being handled in accordance with the rules and regulations for the land, region that they may reside, or be exercising their dogs.

De-registration

⁵ The knowledge test takes the form of written questions, aimed at assessing the owner's general knowledge in regard to keeping a dog. It is not a test of the dog's aptitude or behaviour. The NSE should assist in advising where the test may be completed with an English-speaking Veterinary Practice.

⁶ It is a Host Nation legal requirement for owners of dogs to hold third party liability insurance for their dog and themselves as the owner. The minimum liability level is dependant on the region, NSEs must ensure that the insurance covers the regional variations that covers the place of residence (RWA) is applicable at the time of application.

⁷ NSEs may issue dog tags in place of the tag issued by the Ordnungsamt under local arrangements.

⁸ This is required for travel purposes in Europe and when returning to the UK. All dogs registered with the Force *should* hold a valid European Pet Passport, this ensures that the pet may be transported back to the UK, or another location outside Germany, at the end of the assignment if required.

⁹ Dogs found straying by Service Police or German Civilian Police may be impounded at the local Tierheim (animal shelter).

¹⁰ For the purpose of the law, barracks, office workplaces, outside areas of mess accommodation and any other location where non-Force personnel have access are to be considered as public places.

¹¹ For Categories 1 and 2, anyone handling these dogs must be authorised to do so.

22. NSEs are responsible for ensuring that owners de-register their dog with their local area and NSE as part of the departures process. Personnel moving within Germany must confirm registration with their new NSE as part of the arrivals process.

Failure to comply with GEO Instruction and Host Nation Regulations

23. **Disputes.** Where there is uncertainty as to a dog's breed and its classification, the owner is to provide confirmation from a Host Nation Veterinary Practice to the NSE. Should a dog be reported for aggressive behaviour then the flow-chart at Annex B. should be followed.

24. **Breach of Regulations.** Failure to comply with Host Nation regulations may result in the owner committing a German Civil Offence. Examples of punishments under German law.

- a. Conditions imposed on keeping the dog.
- b. Dog may be ordered to be destroyed.
- c. Maximum fine of Euro 100,000.00.

25. **Destruction of Dogs.** The local Stadt Veterinary Surgeon can order the destruction of a dog if it shows extraordinary aggression that represents a danger to humans and other animals.

26. **Disposing of Dogs.** Category 1 dogs may not be sold or given away within Germany. If an owner feels he can no longer keep a dog in this category he must seek advice from their NSE.

NSE DOG REGISTRATION FORM

Applicants Details

Surname: _____
 Forename: _____
 Rank: _____
 Number: _____
 DOB: _____
 Unit: _____

Dog's Details¹²

Name: _____
 Breed: _____
 Colour: _____
 Sex: _____
 DOB: _____
 Microchip No: _____

Insurance Details (Third Party Liability)

Policy No: _____
 Company: _____
 Valid From: _____ to _____¹³
 Pet Passport No: _____

Veterinary Practice¹⁴

Practice name: _____
 Address: _____
 Knowledge Test completed date¹⁵ (if required): _____

To be completed/issued by the NSE

Disc No¹⁶: _____

NSE responsible for updating the [SharePoint list Dog Register Form](#)

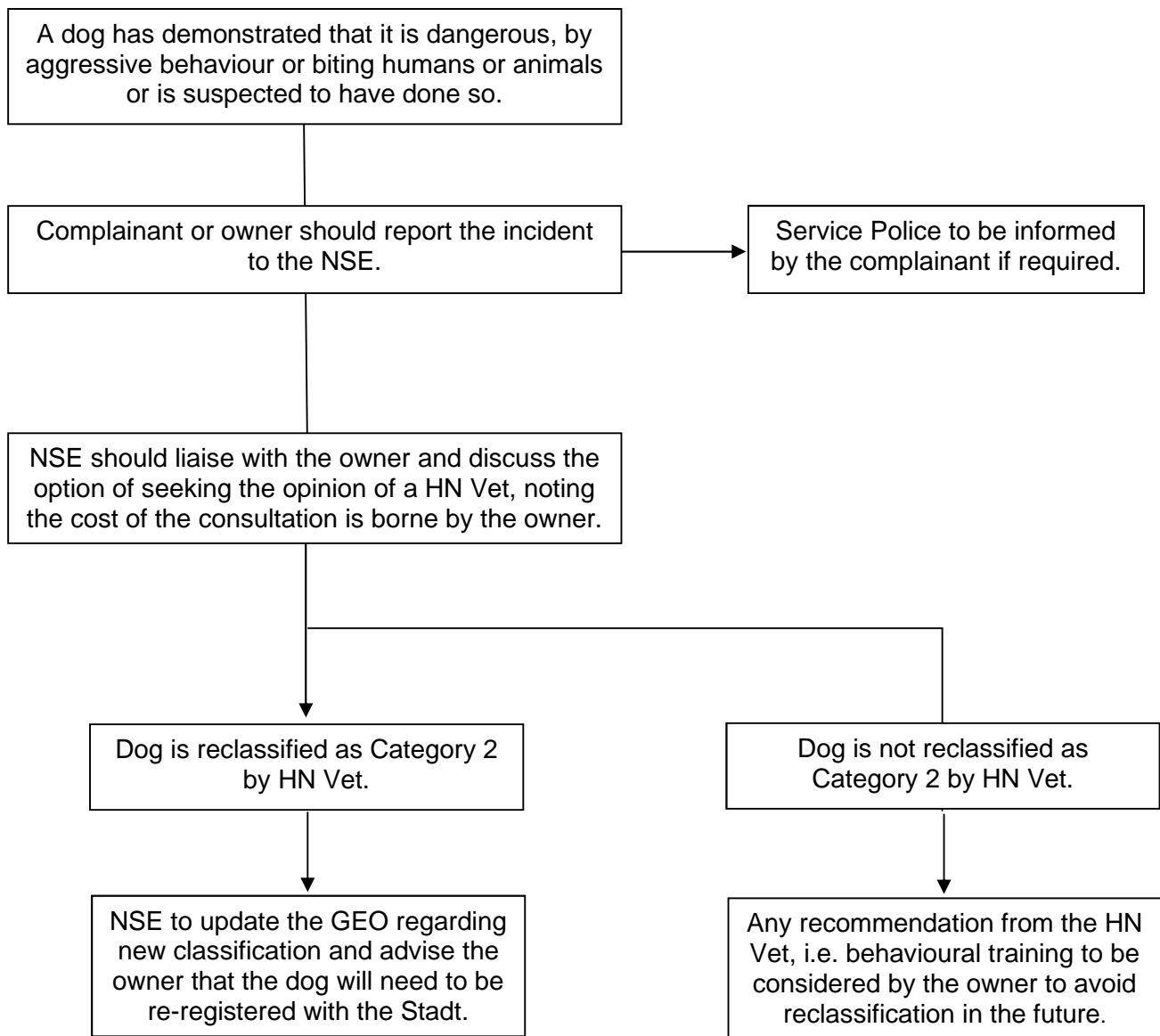
12 To be taken from Dog ownership papers, Veterinary Inoculation Pass or the European Pet Passport for the dog.

13 The NSE must request a copy of the insurance at renewal date if the Dog is to remain registered.

14 Not mandatory, however a Local Veterinary Practice will be required for completion of a 'Knowledge Test' or for inoculations etc, this will be important if returning to the UK. Advice on local practices can be sought from the NSE.








15 Mandatory for dogs that reach a shoulder height of 40 cm or greater or weigh 20 kg (or more) when fully grown.

16 Not a requirement, only if issued by the NSE.

ACTIONS ON AGGRESSIVE OR DANGEROUS DOGS

Enclosure 1

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

	
<h1>Strategic Command</h1>	
<h2>UK FORCE IN GERMANY DOG REGISTRATION</h2>	
Force Member ID:	<input type="text"/> 
This is the No held in DB Row No by the NSE. If the applicant is not SOFA registered the application will be denied by the system.	
NSE:	<input type="text" value="Goch"/> 
Details of the Dog	
Name	<input type="text"/>
Breed:	<input type="text"/>
Colour:	<input type="text"/>
Gender:	<input type="text" value="Male"/> 
Microchip Number:	<input type="text"/>
Category of Dog:	<input type="text" value="Cat 1"/> 
NSE Dog Tag ID:	<input type="text"/>
Pet Passport No:	<input type="text"/>
Insurance Details	
Insurance-Policy No:	<input type="text"/>
Insurance-Company:	<input type="text"/>
Insurance-Valid From:	<input type="text"/> 
Insurance-Valid To:	<input type="text"/> 
Veterinary Practice	
Veterinary Practice Name:	<input type="text"/>
Veterinary Practice Address:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

NSE Staff Extract this number from their SOFA DB Extract. In the fullness of time all members of the Force will be fully aware of this ID and its usefulness.

Enc-1