

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO STANDARD

AOP-69

**THE PROCEDURES FOR AMMUNITION
INTERCHANGEABILITY**

Edition A, version 1

SEPTEMBER 2021



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ALLIED ORDNANCE PUBLICATION

Published by the
NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE (NSO)
© NATO/OTAN

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE (NSO)

NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION

8 September 2021

1. The enclosed Allied Ordnance Publication AOP-69, Edition A, version 1, THE PROCEDURES FOR AMMUNITION INTERCHANGEABILITY, which has been approved by the nations in the MILITARY COMMITTEE LAND STANDARDIZATION BOARD, is promulgated herewith. The agreement of nations to use this publication is recorded in STANAG 2459.
2. AOP-69, Edition A, version 1, is effective upon receipt.
3. This NATO standardization document is issued by NATO. In case of reproduction, NATO is to be acknowledged. NATO does not charge any fee for its standardization documents at any stage, which are not intended to be sold. They can be retrieved from the NATO Standardization Document Database (<https://nso.nato.int/nso/>) or through your national standardization authorities.
4. This publication shall be handled in accordance with C-M(2002)60.



Dimitrios SIGOULAKIS
Major General, GRC (A)
Director, NATO Standardization Office

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

RESERVED FOR NATIONAL LETTER OF PROMULGATION

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

RECORD OF SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS

[nation]	[detail of reservation]
BEL	Studies and tests will be done provided budgetary resources are available.
SVN	The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia has not (yet) implemented STANAG 2928, AOP-06 in its organizational structure, so SVN ratifies STANAG 2459 for future implementation with reservations. Development of appropriate software application, conducting studies and testing will depend on financial resources.
<p>Note: The reservations listed on this page include only those that were recorded at time of promulgation and may not be complete. Refer to the NATO Standardization Document Database for the complete list of existing reservations.</p>	

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
CHAPTER 2	DEFINITIONS.....	2-1
CHAPTER 3	DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT.....	3-1
CHAPTER 4	METHOD.....	4-1
ANNEX A	PROCEDURE 1 - INCLUSION OF AMMUNITION ITEMS IN AOP-6, VOLUME I.....	A-1
ANNEX B	PROCEDURE 2 - THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCHANGEABILITY CRITERIA.....	B-1
ANNEX C	PROCEDURE 3 - HOW TO INTERCHANGE AMMUNITION.....	C-1

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

<p>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</p>

1. This document provides guidance to National Authorities (NA) and (multinational) users when assessing the explosive safety, suitability and acceptability of another nation's ammunition with respect to the interchange of such ammunition for the purposes of storage/stowage, transport/carriage, drills, practice, live firings and exercises during peacetime and operations.
2. Any significant proposed changes to the agreed procedures will be provided to nations for comment and concurrence.
3. In case of a logistic emergency in operations, safety assessment by a nation's NA may be circumvented or reduced for operational reasons (subject to endorsement by the appropriate NA). The final responsibility for any interchange of ammunition in these circumstances rests with the commander.
4. These procedures will equally apply to cargo transport/carriage and storage/stowage of other services ammunition (e.g. Land and Air ammunition on board military vessels).

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms and definitions are used for the purpose of this standard:

1. **Ammunition:** A device charged with explosives, e.g. a complete missile, torpedo, cartridge, aircraft bomb, flare charged with explosives, propellant, pyrotechnic or initiating composition for use in connection with defence, offence, training or non-operational purposes, including mines and demolition charges.
2. **Owner Nation:** The nation supplying ammunition for interchange.
3. **User Nation:** The nation requesting ammunition for interchange.
4. **Form:** Form concerns itself with the shape, arrangement of parts, visible aspect and overall structure of the ammunition.
5. **Fit:** Fit implies that the size (interface) and dimensions of the interchange ammunition correspond exactly to those of the ammunition being interchanged.
6. **Function:** Function implies the correct fulfilment of the purpose for which the ammunition is designed, including actions in the weapon from ignition to launch, and the qualitative nature of its effect at the target (e.g. high explosive, smoke, etc.).

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

CHAPTER 3 DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT

It may be necessary for NATO members to use the ammunition held in stock by other nations. The responsibilities for such actions rest with the following:

1. User nations NA's are responsible for the evaluation of safety and suitability of the ammunition to be interchanged.
2. Owner nations agree to provide information as specified in this standard and any additional information so required by the user nation's NA within the limits of proprietary rights.
3. User nations reserve the right to demand samples of the ammunition for additional tests if considered appropriate and to bear the financial costs of doing so.
4. The responsibility for explosive safety approval is vested in a dedicated NA. It should be this NA, or the representative, who is the point of contact responsible for the assessment of the explosive safety, suitability and acceptability of the ammunition being presented for interchange.
5. Arising from the user nation's assessment, the owner nation's ammunition may be declared as approved as safe and suitable for handling, storage/stowage, transport/carriage and use, or accepted with some specified restrictions or conditions, or considered not to align with national regulations and therefore not acceptable.
6. No ammunition will be interchanged or fired unless user NA's have agreed to its use.

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

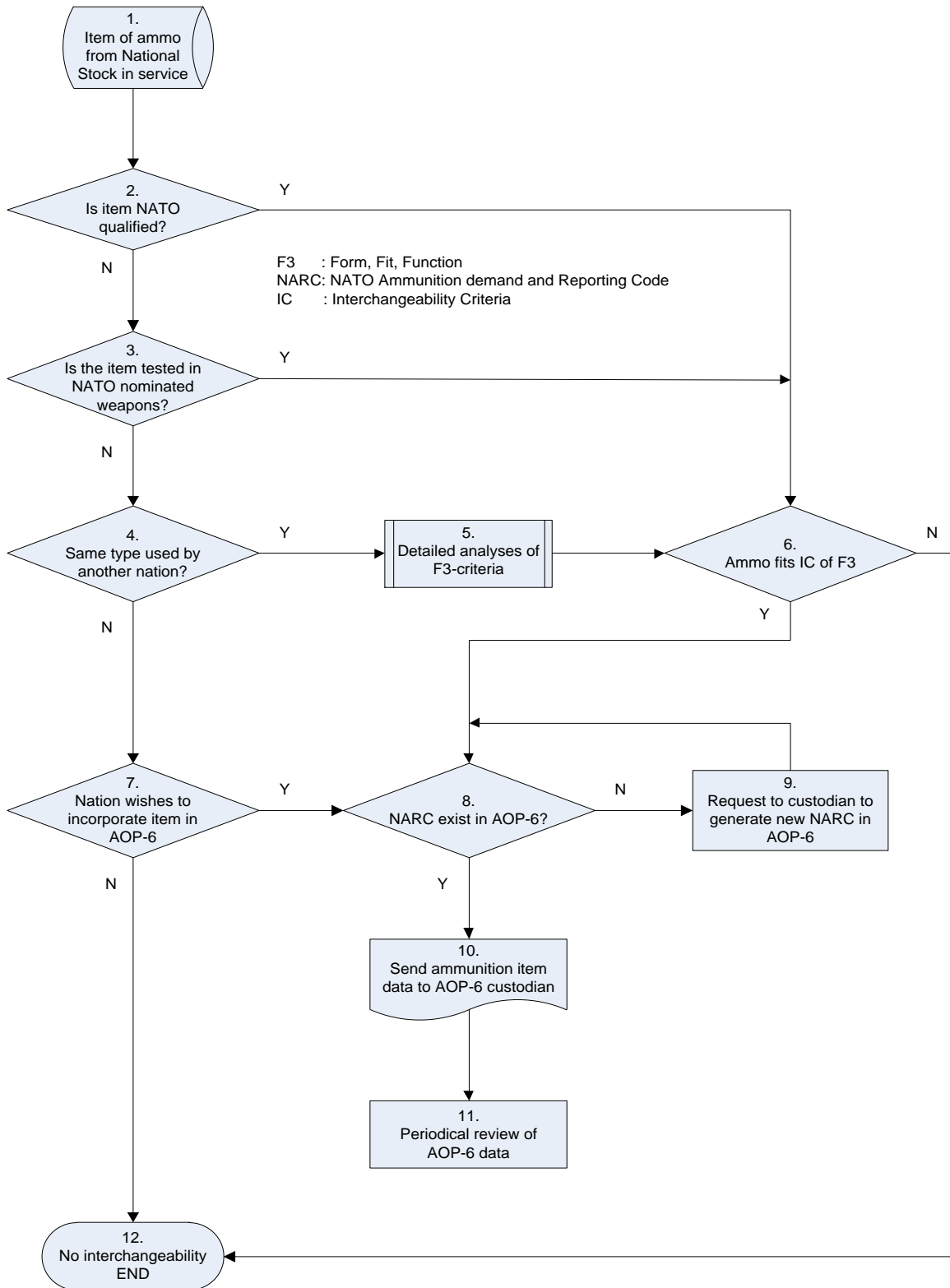
CHAPTER 4 METHOD

The method to determine the level of ammunition interchangeability:

1. Procedure 1 (see Annex A): Form, Fit and Function (F3), these items will be listed in catalogues for use when shortfalls arise which may hamper the effectiveness of operations (AOP-06, Volume I);
2. The method to develop Interchangeability Criteria is shown in Procedure 2 (see Annex B).
3. The method to select a substitute item of ammunition in case of a logistic emergency or for logistic/effective planning purposes is shown in Procedure 3 (see Annex C).

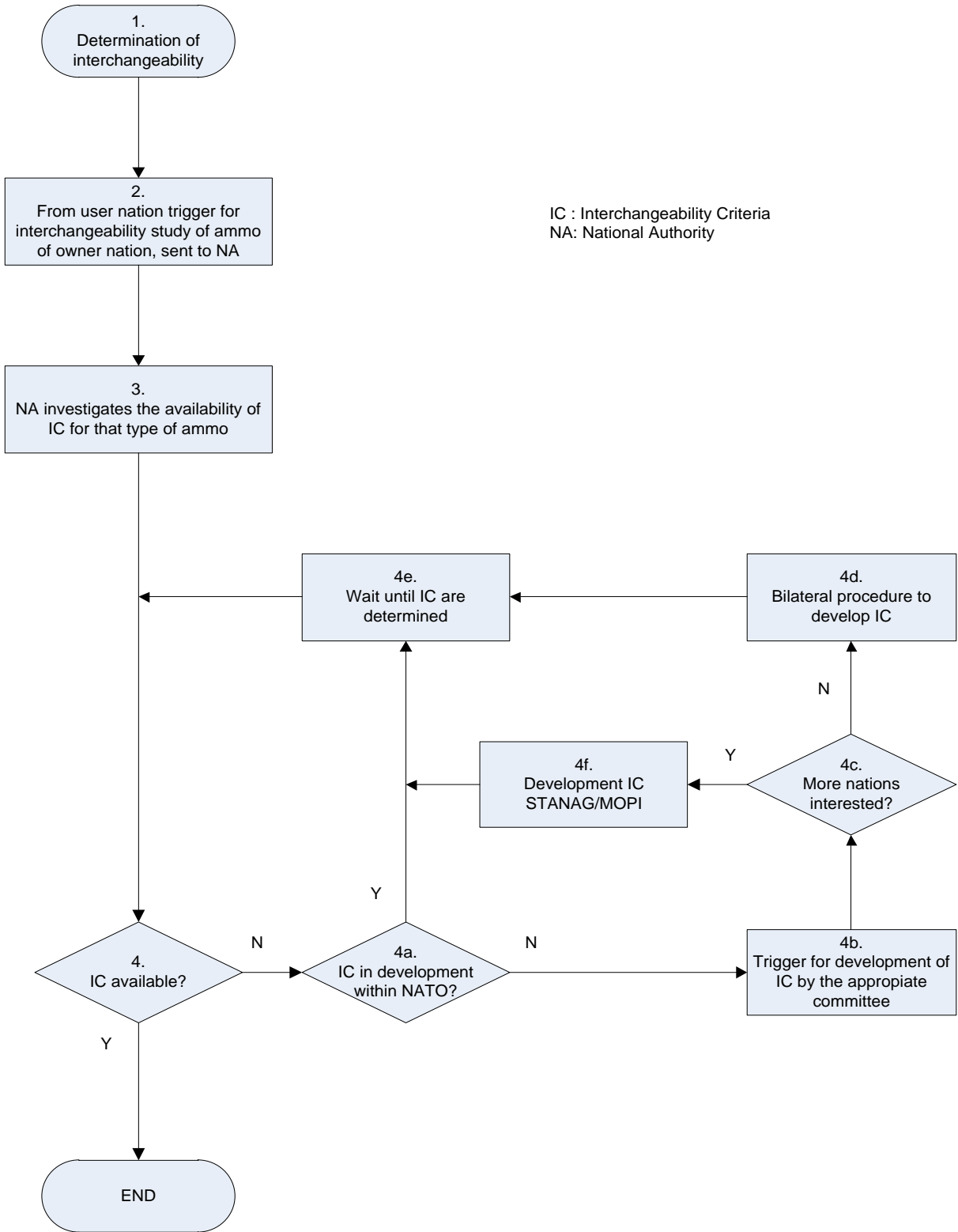
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**ANNEX A PROCEDURE 1 - INCLUSION OF AMMUNITION ITEMS
IN AOP-6, VOLUME I**



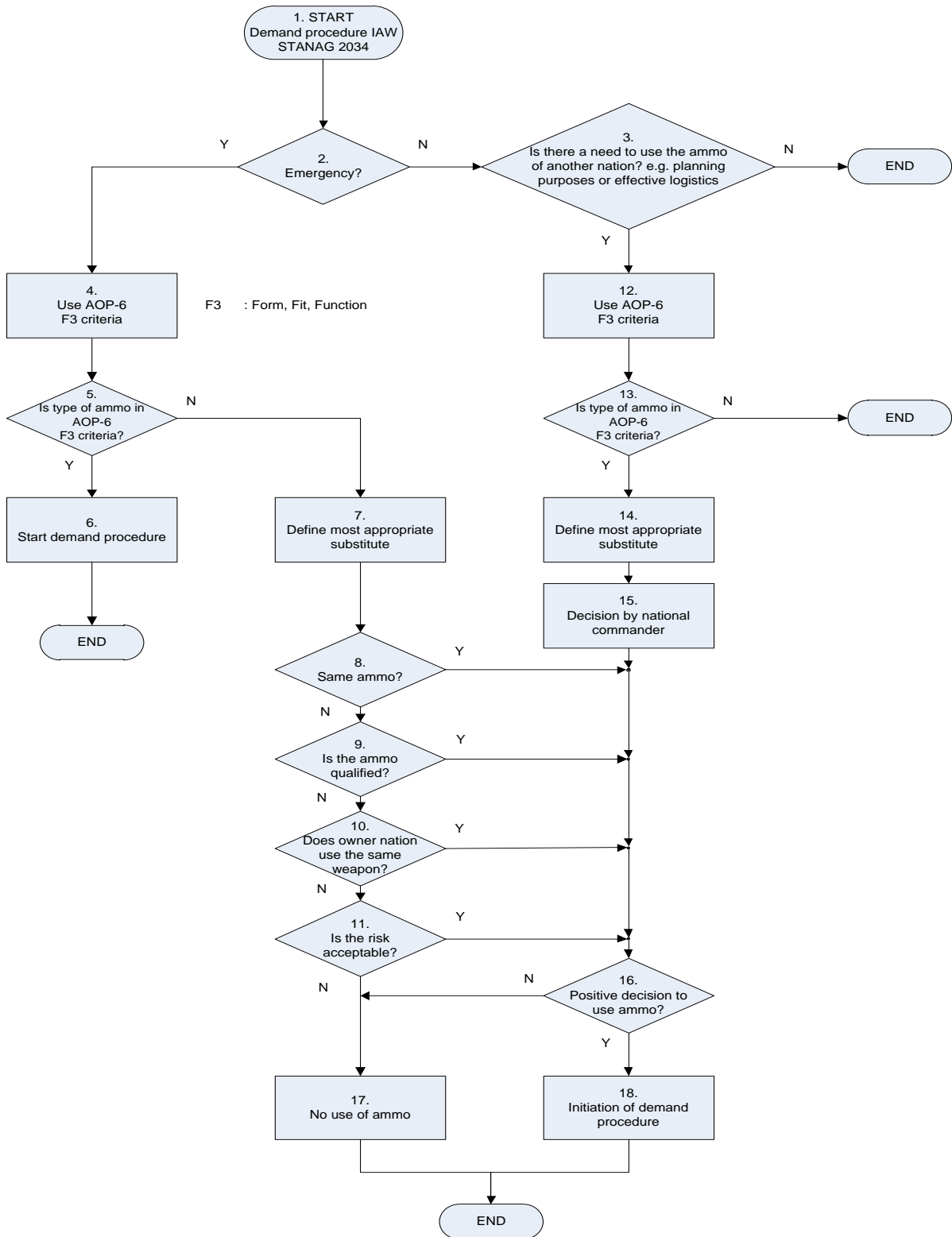
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**ANNEX B PROCEDURE 2 - THE DEVELOPMENT
OF INTERCHANGEABILITY CRITERIA.**



INTENTIONALLY BLANK

ANNEX C PROCEDURE 3 - HOW TO INTERCHANGE AMMUNITION.



NATO UNCLASSIFIED

AOP-69(A)(1)

NATO UNCLASSIFIED