

MSF Procurement and storage procedure¹ of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets

A procedure prepared by the WatSan Working Group

Approved by:

Approval date:

1. Introduction

Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) are imported in countries under the legal and moral responsibility of MSF. It is therefore MSF responsibility to ensure that these LLIN fulfil equivalent standards in terms of quality (identity, efficacy, safety) and specifications (material, active ingredient dose, size, strength etc.) to a set of standards from WHO, adopted by the MSF International WatSan Working Group.

Whether the LLIN are procured internationally, locally, regionally or are coming from a donation, all LLIN should have the same quality and specifications.

Examples of lack of quality from purchasing LLIN locally or regionally may include; sub-dosage of active ingredient (insecticide and/or synergist), poor quality of fabric, non adherence to specifications regarding type of material, type and amount of insecticide and/or synergist, resistance to washes, tear of fabric or packaging etc.

Any lack of quality of LLIN can have consequences for the users or patients in terms of the protection it provides as well as the durability of the tool. An example of experience by MSF went to the extent of receiving fake LLIN or LLIN without PBO while this was required.

Beside quality aspects, the continuous availability of approved sources is also a challenge in developing countries.

This procedure is then to minimize and avoid any preventable risks for the patients or user as well as to ensure adequate supply constantly.

This procedure need to be reviewed and updated every year by the Watsan Working Group.

2. Procurement procedure LLIN

2.1 Explanation international, local and regional procurement:

“*International procurement*” refers to the procurement of LLIN via the MSF European Supply Centres (ESC): MSF Logistique, MSF Supply and MSF-OCA Procurement Unit.

The supply through MSF ESC is organized to provide products of ensured quality, resulting from an intersectional collaboration to ensure the respect of MSF quality requirements and provide a rapid and continuous supply of qualified sources.

“*Local procurement*”, refers to the procurement of LLIN (permanently or occasionally) in a given country, for use in the same country. Local procurement is only allowed if all three requirements are met from paragraph 4.2 from this procedure. An example of local procurement is, MSF Nigeria mission procures directly from Harvestfield Industries Limited in Nigeria, an approved local distributor.

“*Regional procurement*” refers to the procurement of LLIN in a given country, for use in another country in a defined region. Regional procurement is only allowed if all three requirements are met from paragraph 4.2 from this procedure. Examples of regional procurement are the procurement of LLIN to KSU (Kenya Supply Unit), KO (Kenya Office) or SUKA.

¹ This procedure is linked to the Intersection MSF Malaria Policy November 2017

2.2 Quality and commerce:

Important to note is below procedure is based on qualitative requirements, to minimize the risk of having LLIN not being approved and being ineffective. However, procurement decisions on LLIN need to be made on both qualitative assessments and commercial assessments (cost effectiveness of the supply chain i.e. availability, lead-time, transport costs etc.)

During the international MSF tender (2018), it became clear that procuring LLIN from an approved local or regional distributor is often more expensive than international procurement. For orders of LLIN that need to be supplied the soonest, purchasing from a local/regional supplier can be a solution (as long as 4.1 and 4.2 this procedure is met)
However when orders for LLIN can have a longer lead time to be supplied, procuring from approved local/regional distributors (excl. KSU, KO or SUKA) appeared to be approx. 50% more expensive than ordering from the manufacturer (calculating with both product and transport costs) In these cases, international ordering (to the MSF European Supply Centre, ESC) is advised.

2.3 Guideline procurement LLIN:

“Local or regional procurement of LLIN is allowed as far as all three following requirements are met;

- 1. The LLIN choice is from the approved LLIN list (4.1 this procedure)*
- 2. The LLIN is to be procured from the approved sources list (4.2. this procedure)*
- 3. The batch number on the potential LLIN to be procured (before the actual procurement) has been checked² with the manufacturer (4.2 this procedure) to confirm the potential procurement originates from original manufacturer’s location”.*

If the local or regional procurement is not fulfilling all three requirements, local or regional procurement is not allowed. In this case, only international procurement is allowed.

For emergencies when all above three requirements cannot be met, please consult your Watsan Technical Reference of the related OC.

3. Donations of LLIN

The procedure for receiving donations of LLIN, regardless whether the donation is coming from an internal MSF donor, or external donor, is as following;

“Receiving and using donated LLIN is allowed as far as all two following requirements are met;

- 1. The net choice is from the approved LLIN list (4.1 this procedure)*
- 2. The batch number on the potential LLIN to be received from donation (before the actual donation) has been checked² with manufacturer (4.2 this procedure) to confirm the potential donation originates from original manufacturer’s location”.*

If the donation is not fulfilling both these two requirements, receiving and using donated mosquito nets is not allowed.

For donations when all above two requirements cannot be met, please consult your Watsan Technical Reference of the related OC.

² Procedure for checking the batch number;

The batch number for Permanet 3.0 can be found on the bag of the LLIN and also on the washing label on the LLIN itself.

Field informs their OC WatSan Technical Reference => OC WatSan Technical Reference asks their own ESC => ESC asks manufacturer

=> ESC informs OC WatSan Technical Reference => OC WatSan Technical Reference informs field.

4. Approved LLIN and approved sources³

4.1 The only approved LLIN, for international, local and regional procurement or for receiving a donation, are;

1. Permanet 3.0 (manufacturer Vestergaard, produced in Vietnam)
2. Olyset Plus (manufacturer Sumitomo, produced in Vietnam and Tanzania)
(the first collaboration and orders are in process with Sumitomo during 2020. Collaboration to be reviewed during this procedure)

These LLIN choices are made on the requirements specified in the international MSF tender according to standards set by WHO and adopted by the MSF International WatSan Working Group. The LLIN specifications for MSF are mentioned in the MSF Catalogue;

<https://msfintl.sharepoint.com/sites/msfintlcommunities/MSFCatalogues>

4.2 The only approved sources to procure above LLIN:

The approved manufacturers to procure the approved LLIN (from 4.1) are:

1. Vestergaard, produced in Vietnam
2. Sumitomo, produced in Vietnam and Tanzania

The approved LLIN from Vestergaard (Permanet 3.0) is available through MSF ESC, Kenya Supply Unit (KSU), Kenya Office (KO), SUKA and below distributors from 4.2.1.

Please be aware all below distributors are validated distributors from above companies, but that does not mean they always have stock of the approved LLIN. Therefore, the advice is to ask the validated distributor if they have the needed quantity of the approved LLIN available, Approved sources are the legally bonded manufacturers or distributors with whom the mother companies (Vestergaard S.A. and Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited) have legal agreements.

4.2.1 Validated distributors from Vestergaard (August 2019):

Company Name	Country of Sales	Contact
Cicci Angola Comercio Internacional Limitada	Angola	Peder Sidemann - ps@cicci.com
Health Alliance Network Ghana Limited	Ghana	Kofi Fumey - k_fumey63@yahoo.com - +233 26 227 1443
Maa Mangala Agencies	India	Maa Mangala Agencies - Mr Avijeet Phady, Mobile number – +91-8095615490.
SKN Trading Import-Export Sole Co., Ltd.	Laos	contract expired
Melcome Marketing	Zambia	Mwiza Machele - melcomenergy@zamnet.zm
Mast Myanmar Technology Company Limited	Myanmar	Mr Myo – Mobile number - +95 -997944559 also +95 -9783747120
Harvestfield Industries Limited	Nigeria	Martins Awofisayo Phone number: +234 802 304 3050 E-mail: martins.awofisayo@harvestfield-ng.com
Veepo Global Resources Inc	Philippines	
Society For Family Health Rwanda	Rwanda	Manasseh Wandera +250 788 3056 85
Harvestech Private Limited	Sri Lanka	
AEL General Trading DMCC	East and West Africa*	Mohamed Morssi - mmo@aeljlt.com - +971(0)50 903 4213
Paar Impex LLC	Pakistan	Sandeep Somarajan Commercial Manager +971 55 77 21310 Sandeep Somarajan <commercial@paarimpex.com>
Innovative Global Supply LLC	ParaguayBrazilMexicoBelize	Cherod Weber and Gerrick Perry garrick.perry@igs-americas.com
Tracker Agro Industrial, CA	Venezuela	Sonia Mastrogioseppe Sonia Mastrogioseppe <trackeragro@gmail.com>
Hamos Services Trading Company Limited	Vietnam	

* East Africa:
Botswana, Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

³ The list of approved sources can vary annually, therefore this list of approved sources need to be checked and updated annually by the MSF International WatSan Working Group

4.2.2 Validated distributors from Sumitomo (August 2019):
There are currently no validated distributors who sell Olyset Plus.

5. Shelf life of LLIN

MSF also realised that there is a misinterpretation of a shelf life for LLIN, with the consequence that some LLIN are simply discarded, while they could still have been distributed or their shelf life extended (after testing).

Unlike drugs, LLIN do not have an expiry date but rather a “shelf life”.

The shelf life is the length of time the LLIN will remain useable under suitable storage conditions i.e. it has kept its properties as detailed in its specifications. The shelf life is determined by the manufacturer, and under MSF international tender conditions, is visible on each individual LLIN packaging on a specific tag and on the washing label.

The shelf life is specific to each model/brand of net as it depends on the fabric used for the netting and the active ingredient (s) dose/application mode used for impregnation. For example, Olyset Plus has 3 years shelf life while a Permanet 3.0 has only 2 years.

However, an end of shelf life does not mean necessarily that the product is not usable or that its shelf life cannot be extended. This is the main difference with an expiry date.

Since what determines the shelf life are the stability of the properties of the product, if these properties are tested and would still be above or equal to specifications, the product can be used or shelf life extended. Some suppliers offer free of charge, to test some samples of a given stock reaching end of shelf life and provide an advice on possible immediate use or not, or extension of shelf life for a given period. If field managers are in doubt of the expiry of the LLIN, please check with your OC WatSan Technical Reference how to proceed further. Finally yet importantly, testing LLIN only makes sense if the quantities of LLIN are substantial.

Permanet 3.0 testing possibilities:

<https://www.vestergaard.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Permanet-Quality-Brochure.pdf>

Please follow this link and look up in the document point 7.

Please contact your OC WatSan Technical Reference how to proceed further.

6. Storage of LLIN

As LLIN is coated with insecticides, they should be stored in cool (<40°C) dry place, to keep effectiveness of chemicals and packaging.

Given the potential risks of distributing LLIN that have become sub-standard as a result of exposure to high temperatures and/or humidity, MSF does not recommend LLIN storage in containers.