



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

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## Annex B

# Purchase Description Ergonomic Duty Belt

This document has 7 pages.

This document was created in English.

The document is available in English and French.

English/Anglais

Français/French



## 1 Document Scope

- 1.1 This Purchase Description governs the manufacture and inspection of the Belt, Duty, Ergonomic. The specific items covered under this purchase description will have stock numbers applied upon issuance of the Standing Offer.
- i. ## – Belt, Duty, Ergonomic, Outer
  - ii. ## – Belt, Duty, Ergonomic, Inner
  - iii. ## – Belt, Duty, Ergonomic, Replacement Buckle (if applicable)
  - iv. ## – Belt, Duty, Ergonomic, Removable Support (if applicable)
- 1.2 This purchase description, or other information issued in connection therewith, may only be used for specific enquiries, solicitations, or orders placed on behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- 1.3 This purchase description supersedes all previous purchase descriptions for the RCMP Belt, Duty, Ergonomic.
- 1.4 This purchase description has been translated into French from this original English language document.

## 2 Applicable Documents

- 2.1 No additional publications are applicable to this purchase description.

## 3 Definitions

- 3.1 In specifying the different requirements, distinct terms are used. They are defined as follows:
- 3.1.1 **Mandatory Requirements** – A criterion that must be met to be in accordance with the technical requirement. The words “must” and “mandatory” indicate a mandatory requirement.
- 3.1.2 **Preferred Criterion** – A criterion with significant operational value. The words “should” or “preferred” indicate a preference. A preferred criterion is not mandatory.
- 3.1.3 **Optional Criterion** – A criterion that is permissive or discretionary. The word “may” indicates an option. Optional criteria is not mandatory.

## 4 Terminology

- 4.1 **Terminology**

For the purposes of this Purchase Description, the following definitions apply:

- 4.1.1 **Low Profile Buckle** – A buckle with nondescript features. A low profile buckle must be similar to the colour of the belt that it is attached to, and not include any decorations or features that visually contrast it from the belt. Minor components, such as tabs or prongs that do not make up the majority of the visible surface area of the buckle may have an alternative metallic finish.
- 4.1.2 **Replaceable Buckle** – A buckle that can be completely removed and securely reattached to a belt without the use of stitching.
- 4.1.3 **Sizing Guide** – A physical guide containing size and measurement information to assist users in determining their belt size. Sizing guides contain written instructions, and/or diagrams that include written explanations.
- 4.1.4 **Two Step Locking Mechanism Buckle** – A buckle that requires the simultaneous triggering of two separate mechanisms in order to undo the buckle. For example, a buckle that requires the tabs to be squeezed at the same time that a button on the buckle is pressed would meet this requirement. A buckle that has two tabs that lock independently of one another would also meet this requirement.

## 5 Requirements

### 5.1 Intended Use

The Ergonomic Duty Belt is an integral piece of equipment individually issued to RCMP officers. The Ergonomic Duty Belt is intended to support the weight of intervention tools carried in pouches and other equipment attached to it. The Ergonomic Duty Belt is intended as one of several options of duty belt that could potentially satisfy a members' individual ergonomic requirements.

### 5.2 General

- 5.2.1 **Quality** – The item covered by this purchase description must be free from design, material and manufacturing defects that may affect its safety, appearance, functionality, or serviceability.
- 5.2.2 **Durability** – Ergonomic Duty Belts must withstand daily use and the rigours of police duties. The Ergonomic Duty Belt has a life expectancy of four years.
- 5.2.3 **Ergonomic Requirements** – Ergonomic Duty Belts must distribute the weight of belt-mounted tools, provide enough flexibility to accommodate a complete range of motion for all body types, and help prevent the development of long term injury.

- 5.2.4 **Environmental Requirements** – Ergonomic Duty Belts are exposed to a wide variety of environmental factors including UV and moisture. The operational temperature range for the belt is -40°C to 40°C.
- 5.2.5 **Warranty** – Ergonomic Duty Belts must come with a minimum one year warranty for material and manufacturing defects.
- 5.2.6 **Packaging, Marking and Labelling** – The inner belt and the outer belt of the Ergonomic Duty Belt must be packaged separately and will be stocked separately. If there are any inserts or additional pieces, they must be packaged with the outer belt. Belts that offer replaceable pieces must allow for those pieces to be ordered individually. Both belts must be marked with the size, RCMP stock number, date of manufacture, and appropriate cleaning and care information. If the cleaning and care instructions are the same for the inner and outer belts, the information may be provided on the inner belt only. All information must be provided in English and French.

### 5.3 **Operational Requirements**

- 5.3.1 **Interoperability** – The Ergonomic Duty Belt must be compatible with RCMP issued suspenders, as well as pouches and equipment listed in para. 5.3.1.1.

#### 5.3.1.1 **Required Pouches & Equipment**

- a) Pistol Holster
- b) Double Magazine Pouch
- c) Holder, Defensive Spray
- d) Handcuff Pouch
- e) Radio
- f) Flashlight Holster
- g) Baton Holder

### 5.4 **Design**

The Ergonomic Duty Belt must consist of an inner belt and an outer belt. The inner belt must incorporate loop tape on its exterior side, facing away from the body when worn, and the outer belt must incorporate hook tape on its interior side, facing towards the body when worn, to securely attach the outer belt and the inner belt to each other and to securely attach to the pouches. MOLLE belts and belts with padding do not meet this requirement.

The Ergonomic Duty Belt must have sufficient strength to support heavier equipment, such as the pistol and pistol holster, radio and radio holster, baton and baton holder, and conducted energy weapon (CEW) and CEW holster without deforming (such as sagging or twisting). Support must be provided over the hip region of the belt for the pistol and pistol holster, and must be compatible for right and left handed positioning within the same belt. The use of inserts or additional pieces to create this support are acceptable. If additional pieces are required for this support, the pieces must be included with the outer belt. Additional support pieces must allow the wearer to change their location on the belt in order to support heavier equipment. The complete Ergonomic Duty Belt, including additional pieces, must not exceed five individual components.

#### 5.4.1 Closure Mechanisms

5.4.1.1 **Inner Belt** – The closure mechanism for the inner belt must be hook and loop tape. The closure must be designed to minimize bulk.

5.4.1.2 **Outer Belt** – The closure mechanism for the outer belt must be a buckle with an easy to use, two step locking mechanism. The buckle must be low profile in relation to the outer belt, and must not exceed 2 ½" in width. The buckle must have a life expectancy equal to that of the Ergonomic Duty Belt. Outer belts with replaceable buckles are preferred. The outer belt must have a consistent width throughout its length, with the exception of the buckle. The outer belt must not contain any additional attachment features, such as D-rings.

5.4.2 **Colour and Finish** – All components of the Ergonomic Duty Belt must be black in colour, unless otherwise specified. The face of the outer belt must be plain, and constructed from a single material with minimal seams to reduce uneven wear. Ergonomic Duty Belts with added patterns, such as basket weave or other patterns that are printed/embossed do not meet the requirement. Textures which result from weaving and are inherent to the construction of the material are acceptable.

5.4.3 **Size and Adjustability** – The size of the Ergonomic Duty Belt must be indicated numerically, and must correlate to the waist measurement and the size of the inner belt. The outer belt must be sized proportionally to fit over top of the inner belt. The Ergonomic Duty Belt must be available in a range of waist sizes, from 26" – 56", with consistent increments between each size. The increments between sizes must not exceed 5". The size of each belt must be adjustable via a mechanism that can be incrementally changed and set within the adjustment range. For example, for a 2" range, a size 26 must be adjustable either down to 24", or up to 28", or down to 25" and up to 27". A Sizing Guide must be provided by the manufacturer detailing how to measure and select the appropriate size of Ergonomic Duty Belt.

5.4.4 **Dimensions** – The width of the outer duty belt must measure 1 7/8" to 2" in order to accommodate RCMP pouches and accessories. The width of the inner belt must measure 1 ½" to 2" to accommodate belt loops on RCMP trousers.

5.4.5 **Cleaning** – At minimum, the Ergonomic Duty Belt must be able to be spot cleaned with a damp cloth. If additional cleaning methods are applicable, then the manufacturer must provide cleaning instructions.

5.4.6 **Performance** – The Ergonomic Duty Belt must be easy to don and doff. The belt must provide the user with a perceivable level of comfort by reducing areas of high pressure, pinching, and chafing. The Ergonomic Duty Belt must secure to the trousers and attach so there is minimal movement during regular policing activities, including drawing and holstering intervention equipment. The belt must be comfortable to wear while sitting in a patrol vehicle, sitting in an office chair, standing, walking, running, and during general movement.

#### 5.4.7 Material Performance

5.4.7.1 **Colorfastness** – Materials must be colourfast to moisture and perspiration for the expected life of the Ergonomic Duty Belt.

5.4.7.2 **UV-Resistance** – Materials must resist degradation, including discolouration, under prolonged UV exposure for the expected life of the Ergonomic Duty Belt.

5.4.8 **Materials**

Ergonomic Duty Belts must be constructed from synthetic materials. Belts constructed from leather do not meet this requirement.

5.4.8.1 **Plastic** – If plastic components are used, all plastic must be constructed from durable, shatter-resistant polymers.

5.4.8.2 **Metal** – If metals are used, they must be corrosion-resistant to moisture and humidity. Where coatings are used on high impact or high abrasion areas, underlying materials must be corrosion-resistant. All metals must be black in colour, unless otherwise specified, with a non-reflective, durable finish.