

UKRO Challenge 2023 – Extrication Challenge Innovation

1. Introduction

- 1.1. UKRO is keen to encourage Extrication Teams to present ideas for the use of non-standard equipment at the Challenge as part of advancing our mission of advancing professional rescue.
- 1.2. This note sets out the process for non-standard ideas to be approved for use at the Challenge.

2. Principles

- 2.1. All innovation ideas will be assessed by UKRO for their functionality and benefits to the field of a “safe casualty centred extrication”.
- 2.2. An item of equipment will only be classed as an innovation if it supports “Best Safe Practice” and is not currently a standard item within the Extrication Challenge, this includes medical equipment and hand tools.
- 2.3. To maintain acceptable levels of safety and ensure that ideas are classed as an innovation, due diligence must have been completed by the applying Team. To validate the suitability of the item of equipment the following criteria must be met:
 - any application must be endorsed in writing by the applying Team’s Service.
 - any item of equipment which involves mechanical, hydraulic or electrical parts must conform to relevant legislative requirements and have a valid CE mark.
 - no item can replace existing equipment which performs the same purpose.
 - equipment must be supported by a suitable PUWER assessment.
 - equipment must be supported by a manufacturer’s technical specification.

3. Procedure

- 3.1. To apply for the use of an item of equipment for the Challenge, an email should be submitted to Andy Dixon (Director of Rescue Challenges) at adixon@ukro.org. Information provided should include evidence as stipulated in paragraph 2.3 and a brief description of how the item will support a “safe casualty centred extrication”.
- 3.2. All applications for mechanical, hydraulic, electrical tool or item of equipment that is required to be stored on an appliance must be received at least **3 months** before the Challenge. Where such items are approved for use during the Challenge will need to be supplied in sufficient numbers for each of the Challenge appliances and for competitor familiarisation.
- 3.3. All applications for hand tools or medical equipment must be received at **3 months** before the Challenge. If approved there will be a requirement for the applying Team to present such hand tools or medical equipment to the Director of Rescue Challenge before their first run-off on the Friday of the Challenge for final approval.
- 3.4. The Directory of Rescue Challenges will determine no later than **2 weeks** before the Challenge whether approval has been given for use of the innovation. The Director will notify the applying Team of their decision which shall be final.
- 3.5. The Director of Rescue Challenges will arrange for the innovation to be evaluated to establish if the item of equipment would be of benefit to future Challenges and the UK FRS.