



Aide-memoire 51.007/III e

The ten basic rules of the Law of Armed Conflict

Valid after 01.07.2005

SCN 306-3166
SAP 2536.7631
Aide-memoire 51.007/III e

Protective signs	Correct behaviour	Prohibited is / are ...
 Red Cross Red Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, installations, material and means of transport of the medical services as well as carriers of signs or objects marked with distinctive signs must be respected and spared; The distinctive signs may only be used by persons entitled and only for their intended purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against persons or objects carrying this sign; Any improper use of the distinctive signs, e.g. to cover military actions; Placing military targets or combatants close to marked objects.
 Civil Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, installations, material and means of transport as well as carriers of distinctive signs or objects marked with distinctive signs must be respected and spared; The distinctive signs may only be used by persons entitled and only for their intended purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against persons or objects carrying this distinctive sign; Any improper use of the signs, e.g. to cover military actions; Placing military targets or combatants close to marked objects.
 Protection of cultural properties (simple or reinforced protection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural properties, storage location or means of transport for cultural assets as well as carriers of the distinctive sign or objects marked with signs must be respected and spared; The distinctive signs may only be used by persons entitled and only for their intended purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against persons or objects carrying this distinctive sign; Any improper use of the distinctive sign, e.g. to conceal military actions; Placing military targets or combatants close to marked objects.
 Installations containing dangerous forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object that releases dangerous forces when destroyed (such as dams, embankments and nuclear power stations); Use objects for their intended purpose only; Protect objects against destruction through attack. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage an object to such a degree that dangerous forces are released and subsequently threaten civilians; Use of an object for something other than its original purpose (e.g. abuse for combat support).
 White Flag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The White Flag clearly indicates willingness to negotiate, sometimes even willingness to surrender; Respect bearers of the White Flag. They are not allowed to be attacked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against bearers of the White Flag; Improper use of the White Flag in order to achieve a military advantage.
 Medical and security zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These zones have to be respected; Only medical personnel, patients and civilians have access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against a marked zone; The presence of combatants, introduction of military equipment (with the exception of the equipment of the military medical services).
 POW camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The camps must be situated at a sufficient distance to combat zones and must be marked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against camps; Any improper use of the distinctive sign.
 Intermee camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The camps must be situated at a sufficient distance to combat zones and must be marked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks against camps; Any improper use of the distinctive sign.
 United Nations (UN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, installations, material and means of transport of the UN as well as bearers of distinctive signs or objects marked with distinctive signs must be respected and spared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaging action against personnel, installations and material, as long as these are not involved in combat; Any improper use of the distinctive sign.

Distribution

- Personal copy:
• Members of the Armed Forces

Aide-memoire 51.007/III e

The ten basic rules of the Law of Armed Conflict

as of 01.07.2005

issued, based on Article 10 of the Ordinance for Organisation of the Federal Department for Defence, Civil Protection and Sports dated 07.03.2003.

This Aide-memoire goes into effect on 01.07.2005.

On the date on which it comes into force all other contradictory regulations are repealed, especially the Aide-memoire 51.007/III dfi «Laws and customs of war», valid since 01.01.1984.

Chief of the Armed Forces

Rule 1

I exclusively engage combatants and military targets.

Rule 2

I spare persons that surrender or are *hors de combat*. I can therefore also expect the enemy to treat me humanely.

Rule 3

I do not destroy more than is inevitable for accomplishing my mission. All forms of retaliation are prohibited.

Rule 4

I recover and identify wounded, sick, shipwrecked and dead persons without discrimination as soon as the combat situation allows or the superior orders such. I give First Aid and evacuate the patients according to the orders of my superior.

Rule 5

I treat people that fall into my hands humanely. I disarm them and hand them over to my superior. They have to be protected from any kind of attack. I respect their possessions. Only military objects that are not required for their clothing, nourishment, medical support or protection are taken away from them. At the same time, I always take my own safety and that of my comrades into account.

Rule 6

I spare and protect civilians and keep them away from the combat zone. I respect civilian property. Pillaging and robbing, even of wounded or dead persons, are strictly prohibited.

Rule 7

I spare and respect personnel and installations as well as equipment and means of transport of the medical services and the International Red Cross, the civil defence organisation and the organisation for the protection of cultural property as well as the United Nations without discrimination unless they open fire on my comrades or me.

Rule 8

I remain fair:
 - I shall use the distinctive emblems, white flag and uniform in accordance with the rules (cf. Rule 10). These also protect my comrades and me;
 - I shall make no modification of my own on weapons and ammunition and I shall only use the official weapons and ammunition of our own armed forces;
 - I shall deploy neither anti-personnel mines, poison nor booby traps;
 - I shall not collect 'war trophies'.

Rule 9

Whenever possible, I shall prevent potential violations of the Law of Armed Conflict. I have to report violations to my superior as quickly as possible, even if comrades have committed them.

Rule 10

I am familiar with the international protective signs and their meaning.