



RUSSIAN
RED CROSS

GUIDELINES

*FOR THE USE
OF THE RED CROSS
EMBLEM*

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THE HISTORY OF THE EMBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF THE RED CROSS AND THE RED CRESCENT

Adoption of a universal distinguishing symbol that would regulate legal protection of army medical service and volunteers rendering help to the wounded and casualties of armed conflicts was one of the primary tasks of the founders of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Nowadays, many countries use the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal for the identification of National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – all of these emblems have equal value. As a rule, only one symbol is used in the territory of one country. Russia uses the Red Cross emblem.

RED CROSS

At a diplomatic conference in 1864, when the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Active Armies was adopted, a special international distinguishing symbol of medical units of army medical service, a red cross on a white background, was established to provide its wearers protection on the battlefields. This symbol was chosen for several reasons.



The adopted emblem represents the reverse colors of the Swiss national flag (Switzerland's permanent neutral status has been confirmed in practice for many years), and the white banner in international relations is also recognized as a request for the end of hostilities, a sign of ceasefire. The Red Cross symbolizes respect and mercy towards the wounded and those who come to their aid. Besides, this symbol was easy to make and easy to recognize even from a great distance.

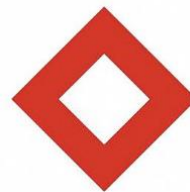
RED CRESCENT

During the Russian-Turkish War (1877-1878), the Ottoman Empire announced that it would use the image of the Red Crescent on its sanitary wagons henceforth, respecting at the same time enemy's sanitary convoys marked by the Red Cross. The Ottoman Empire explained that the Red Cross symbol makes Muslim soldiers feel uncomfortable. The Red Crescent was formally recognized in 1929.



RED CRYSTAL

In 2005, the states-parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 established the third emblem – the Red Crystal. The new emblem has become a universal symbol for those who, for whatever reason, could not use the Red Cross or the Red Crescent.



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EMBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The emblems have two main functions:

Indicative function

Protective function

INDICATIVE FUNCTION

The emblems serve as an indicated device of membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In this case, the emblem used as an indicative device should be smaller than the emblem used as a protective device. In peacetime, the emblem is used as an

- National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Ambulance vehicles and ambulance stations, subject to three conditions:
 - 1) the emblem is used in accordance with the provisions of national legislation;
 - 2) the National Society has allowed it to be used in this capacity; and
 - 3) ambulance vehicles and ambulance stations will provide medical care free of charge only.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies may use the emblem at any time (both in peacetime and in wartime) without any restrictions.

The emblem may be used as a decorative sign when placed on medals, honorary badges and other awards, as well as on informational and decorative posters of National Societies.

PROTECTIVE FUNCTION IN ARMED CONFLICTS

During armed conflicts, the emblem serves as a visible device of protection that is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto.

The purpose of the emblem is to show that certain persons (for example, medical units, transports and their personnel, specially authorized medical personnel of National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, when it is placed at the disposal of army medical service and is subject to military laws and regulations) are protected by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto. The emblem may be used as a protective device by:

- Army medical service;
- Army religious personnel;
- Medical personnel, institutions and sanitary units of the National Societies when they are placed at the disposal of the army medical service and are subject to military laws and regulations;
- Civilian hospitals and medical institutions that are recognized as such by the government and are authorized to use the emblem for protection purposes;
- Other voluntary aid societies, their personnel and transports, which heal and transport the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, provided that they operate on the basis of special permission from the government and under its supervision.

THE EMBLEMS AND THE FLAG OF THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS

In accordance with the Statutes of the Russian Red Cross, the emblem of the Russian Red Cross is a heraldic image of the red cross on a white background; the red cross consists of two straight lines (vertical and horizontal) of the same length and the same width, intersecting in the center at a right angle and not reaching the edge of the background. The stroke length-to-width ratio is **3.4:1**.



Another emblem (logo) of the Russian Red Cross is a circle with a white background, bounded by a red line, with a heraldic image of the red cross at the center; inside the circle is an arc-shaped verbal element "RUSSIAN RED CROSS" printed in capital letters in the original red font. The word "RUSSIAN" is located at the top of the circle; the words "RED CROSS" are at the bottom of the circle.



The flag of the Russian Red Cross is a rectangular white sheet with the heraldic sign of the Red Cross at its center. The ratio of the length of the flag to its width is 3:2. The red cross fits into a square, the side of which is 1/2 of the length of the flag.

ABUSE OF EMBLEMS, NAMES AND INDICATIVE DEVICES

Liability in accordance with legislation shall be borne by persons who, in violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto, have resorted to the use of:

- Red Cross or Red Crescent emblems;
- names "Red Cross" or "Red Crescent";
- emblems, flags or images that imitate the aforementioned emblems and names or may be mistaken for such, whatever the purpose of such use, including persons, who:
 - have resorted to such use of the emblem on signboards, posters, in advertisements, flyers or commercial documents, or in goods labeling or packaging;
 - or offered for sale or put in circulation goods marked in this way.

bear responsibility in accordance with the law

EXAMPLES OF MISUSE AND ABUSE OF THE EMBLEMS

Misuse and abuse of the emblems are:

1. Imitation, i.e. the use of a symbol that, due to its shape and/or color, may be confused with one of the emblems.
2. The use by unauthorized persons or organizations (commercial enterprises, pharmacies, doctors in private practice, non-governmental organizations, etc.) or use for purposes that do not comply with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
3. The use of the emblem during an armed conflict in order to protect combatants and other persons, who are directly involved in hostilities, or military equipment to confuse the enemy.

AN EXAMPLE FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICE:

In accordance with the decision of the Intellectual Property Rights Court dated 30 October 2020 per Case No. SIP-411/2020, the court refused to invalidate Rospatent's decision taken after the consideration of an objection against granting Rospatent's legal protection for a combined trademark, since Rospatent came to a reasonable conclusion that, with respect to certain goods, registration of the disputed trademark is contrary to the public interest because of misuse of an image imitating the emblem of the Red Cross and the flag of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto, the Russian Red Cross is one of the organizations in the territory of the Russian Federation that may use the name and the emblem of the Red Cross for its activities and such use conforms to the legislation of the Russian Federation, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto, and the Rules on the Use of the Emblem by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (1991). The Russian Red Cross may use its emblem (logo) to identify goods, works and services created, carried out and provided by the Russian Red Cross itself and jointly with other organizations.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE WITNESSED MISUSE OF THE EMBLEM?

In Russia, the Russian Red Cross, its regional and local branches, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, institutions and services of the public health system, as well as medical services and religious personnel of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation have the right to use the emblems of the Red Cross. The Russian Red Cross also has the right to grant permission for the use of the Russian Red Cross logo (the Red Cross emblem with the words "Russian Red Cross") to its partners and donors on the basis of separate agreements on the terms and in accordance with the procedure established by these agreements in accordance with the Regulations for the Use of the Emblem by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of 1991 and other documents of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Russian Red Cross.

In other cases, the use of the Red Cross emblem and the emblem (logo) of the Russian Red Cross is unlawful.

If you have witnessed misuse or controversial use of the emblem of the Russian Red Cross, or if the use of the emblem has aroused your suspicions of unlawfulness, please inform the Russian Red Cross at the following email address:

emblem@redcross.ru

It is necessary to attach photos and videos to the message, specify the address of the witnessed use of the emblem and any other information that will allow you to promptly confirm the fact of misuse of the emblem in order to prevent, if confirmed, further misuse of it.

Information about the person who reported the violation is kept strictly confidential, and it is not allowed to pass any information about such person to third parties. Information on the results of the consideration of the message is sent to the informer within **30 days** of the date of receipt of the message.

Jointly developed by the Department of Strategic Development of the Russian Red Cross and the Department of International Cooperation of the Russian Red Cross with the support from the International Committee of the Red Cross.



RUSSIAN
RED CROSS



ICRC

Russian Red Cross
URL:

redcross.ru



Russian Red Cross
Toll-free hotline:

8 800 234 07 07