

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS

PREAMBLE

1. In 2025, an exhaustive review was carried out on the systems and measures implemented by other international federations and on the success of these measures.
2. At the beginning of December 2025, a representative group of fencing equipment manufacturers was consulted directly and with transparency. The fees were determined after conferring with these manufacturers and before any implementation steps were initiated.
3. Fencers' safety remains our top priority. Along with the fees, it was also agreed that periodic verification of all manufactured equipment and of **its** authenticity is necessary to maintain the required standards. This responsibility will be fully handled by the FIE.
4. The implemented system is organisational in nature and relates to verification, traceability, and the continuous improvement of safety in our sport. The fees are not duty, tax or commercial levy; they are specifically earmarked to support measures that protect fencers, preserve the integrity of competitions and combat counterfeit or non-compliant equipment. The fees will serve to support activities, such as, but not limited to:
 - Monitoring of weapons control by members of the SEMI Commission and their delegates at various FIE competitions. (already implemented since January 2026)
 - Implementation and maintenance of a traceability system to help reduce counterfeit products, ensure authenticity of equipment, and improve safety.
 - Ongoing verification of equipment of all manufacturers. Random or scheduled checks will be used to confirm compliance with FIE technical and safety requirements.
 - Activities related to continuous improvement and innovation in safety, such as updated laboratory tests, post-incident analysis of faulty equipment, and other necessary work to improve safety and the safe application of new technologies in our sport, include for example:
 - Re-examination of martensite grain size and its impact on the fracture behaviour of blades
 - Evaluation of the durability and service life of materials and the establishment, where appropriate, of indicative service-life guidance.
 - Research and development of new protective textile solutions for vulnerable areas of the body, particularly for youth and women.
 - Development and validation of smart textile technologies (for example, impact sensing or energy absorbing materials) that enhance protection, comfort, and monitoring of equipment performance during use.

1. TRANSITION

Homologated equipment that has been previously manufactured and/or currently owned by fencers, fencing clubs and federations are not impacted and **can be used**. The regular equipment control at the competitions will continue.

The new coding system **will not** be implemented on the equipment already manufactured or already owned. It will only apply to the products that will be manufactured once the new coding is introduced and is in force.

Until the new coding system is in force, suppliers that pay Annual Fee and Equipment Fees carry on selling their products using the existing FIE Labels. An adequate grace period will be determined and communicated in advance.

2. ANNUAL FEE FOR REGISTERED SUPPLIERS

To promote transparency and to combat counterfeiting:

- A listing of **FIE Registered Suppliers** will be made official and public.
- FIE Registered Suppliers and their contact details will appear on FIE website.

These measures will allow the public to verify their purchases and to reduce some of the various enquiries received by the FIE and SEMI Commission.

The status of “FIE Registered Suppliers” gives the right to these suppliers to use that information for their official, advertising and marketing purposes.

Important Note: Registration of the suppliers is separate from the homologation of the materials and equipment.

3. EQUIPMENT LICENCING FEES

The equipment licencing fee will grant suppliers with the right to use FIE’s name, label, and code (to be introduced later).

These criteria must be applied when submitting the list of families of products that are supplied.

These families of products are:

1. Fencers’ clothing (jackets, breeches, under-plastrons, sabre gloves)
2. Masks
3. Blades and points
4. Pistes
5. Scoring apparatus
6. Video-refereeing system
7. Competition management software

Equipment licensing fees apply to **items 1 to 5 above only**.

Items that are excluded from the equipment licensing fee are as follows:

- Video-refereeing system
- Competition management software

The video-refereeing system and competition management software will continue to require adherence to the FIE rules and homologation procedures, including but not limited to random and scheduled checks.

Listing of Equipment on FIE Website

The list of equipment using FIE's name and label for each supplier will also be made public on FIE's website, which gives the right to use that information for official, advertising and marketing purposes.

Invoicing of Equipment Licencing Fees

Invoices for the Equipment Licencing Fees will be sent to the suppliers in April 2026.

4. FIE LABEL FEE AND NEW CODING SYSTEM

Labels will be designed to suit different type of products. There will be no need to redesign any products for labelling purposes.

The obligation to pay the FIE Label Fee of CHF 3.50 per item sold will be implemented after the new labelling system has been introduced.

All suppliers will be informed on time and an appropriate period for labels to be introduced into the equipment will be allocated.

The coding system will be associated to a database to trace specified information.

FIE Label/code fee will be applied to **items 1 to 5 listed above in section 3.**

Items that are excluded from the FIE Label fee are as follows:

- Video-refereeing system
- Competition management software

5. RANDOM TESTING

The FIE will organise random testing of the already homologated equipment to verify that materials, fabrication and quality remain consistent with adherence to the current homologation requirements and that no modifications have been introduced.

This random testing and eventual re-homologation will be managed by the FIE SEMI commission.

Items for random testing will be purchased through normal commercial channels. Suppliers will not be asked to provide any samples. They will not incur costs for this testing, as the fees will fund the process.

In case random testing reveals non-compliance with FIE standards, the SEMI Commission will contact the supplier to review the findings, and the appropriate steps will be taken. Non-compliance may lead to the suspension of the existing homologation certificates if the corrective actions are not performed on time.

6. HOMOLOGATION

Homologation of the equipment and materials continues to be overseen by the FIE SEMI commission applying same procedure as previously established. There will be no changes to the current process.

CE Certificates are not part of equipment and materials homologation procedure.

Equipment and materials that have already been homologated and their homologation certificates issued, do not require new homologation at the time of this notification.

Official Announcement

The International Fencing Federation (“FIE”) hereby informs all fencing equipment suppliers, manufacturers, and concerned stakeholders of the adoption of a new framework governing the registration and homologation of fencing materials and equipment using the FIE label, including the equipment used in FIE competitions.

The FIE is responsible for promoting, developing, and regulating fencing worldwide. In accordance with Article 1.1 letters (c), (e), (g), (i), (k), (l), and (m) of the FIE Statutes, and in conjunction with the FIE Administrative Rules and the FIE Material Rules, the FIE Executive Committee has adopted a new framework governing the homologation and labelling of fencing materials and equipment, with the objectives of establishing appropriate rules and measures to protect the safety and health of athletes and ensuring fair sporting contests so that the spirit of fair play prevails.

This regulatory update is intended to strengthen oversight, ensure consistent technical compliance, and support the effective administration of homologation activities at the international level, thereby safeguarding athlete safety, guaranteeing equal conditions of competition worldwide, and reinforcing confidence in the authenticity and integrity of FIE-approved equipment.

With effect from 15th of March 2026, any supplier or manufacturer wishing to be recognised by the FIE as an official homologated supplier of fencing equipment and materials must comply with the registration requirements set out below.

All existing registrations and homologations previously granted or acknowledged by the FIE shall stand cancelled as from 15th of March 2026.

To be registered with the FIE and listed as an official FIE fencing equipment and materials supplier and/or manufacturer on the FIE’s website, suppliers and manufacturers are required to complete a registration process in accordance with the FIE Rules, subject to payment of the following fees:

- 1) Annual License Fee: CHF 5,000.00**
- 2) Annual Fee per Product Type: CHF 5,000.00** (capped at a maximum of CHF 25,000.00 per year). For the avoidance of doubt, FIE homologation test costs are included in the registration fees. For periodic and random quality control, the FIE will rely on official, certified, independent test laboratories.

Product type refers to the main categories of safety equipment requiring mandatory CEN certification, including Masks, Jackets, Breeches, Gloves, Plastrons (under-plastrons), fencing blades, weapons components, and spare parts (such as mask parts).

The CHF 5,000 fee applies per product type (e.g. all Jackets combined) and not per individual model (e.g. Jacket Model “X” or Jacket Model “Y”). An 800N uniform, for example, comprises multiple product types (Jacket, Breeches, etc.).

3) FIE Label Fee: CHF 3.50 per item sold.

This requirement applies to products requiring FIE homologation that are sold with the official FIE label. Manufacturers shall order the labels for integration into their products.

To ensure quality and effective control, the FIE label (code/tag) shall be supplied by the FIE or by an officially approved source.

The FIE plans to implement latest coding technology, in order to enhance safety standards, reduce equipment control times, and guarantee the authenticity of genuine FIE-homologated products.

Core information embedded in the FIE label will include essential data relating to quality assurance, safety, and traceability, in particular: manufacturing date, validity period or expiration date, manufacturer’s name, and material composition where relevant for safety standards.

Implementation:

Registration and re-registration of suppliers of fencing equipment and materials as an official FIE homologated supplier is strictly contingent upon full payment of the applicable Annual License Fee and of the Annual Fee per Product Type. In the absence of payment, the manufacturer shall not be registered with the FIE and shall be excluded from the official list of official FIE equipment suppliers.

Also, if annual fees and the fees for each product are not paid, the products will not be accepted by the equipment control team in competitions.

To keep the registration active in the subsequent years, the annual license fee must be paid, and the underlying safety certifications must be kept up to date.

The administrative management of company registrations, including the processing of registrations and fees, shall be handled by the FIE Office in Lausanne.

The SEMI Commission shall retain its technical expertise. From a practical perspective and in view of centralization, the technical homologation process shall be handled by the FIE Technical office in Budapest. Its responsibility should be twofold:

For products and materials homologation manufacturers must first submit valid CE certificates for the relevant products.

Following this, the SEMI Commission will organise random quality and safety tests through FIE-certified laboratories.

It is only after these tests have been conducted and passed that the homologation will be considered valid.

Lausanne, 27 February 2026