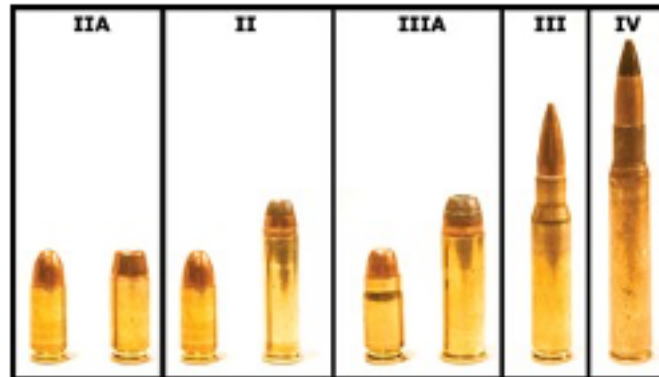


# Understanding NIJ Standard 0101.06 Armor Protection Levels

## What Are NIJ-Compliant Armors Tested Against?



## Existing Levels Of Protection?

- Level IIA** Tested to stop 9mm and .40 S&W ammunition fired from short-barrel handguns; no rifle ammunition protection.
- Level II** Tested to stop 9mm and .357 Magnum ammunition fired from short-barrel handguns; no rifle ammunition protection.

- Level IIIA** Tested to stop .357 SIG and .44 Magnum ammunition fired from longer-barrel handguns; no rifle ammunition protection.
- Level III** Tested to stop 7.62mm full-metal jacket (FMJ) lead core rifle ammunition.
- Level IV** Tested to stop .30cal steel core armor piercing rifle ammunition

## What about 5.56mm/.223 ammunition?



5.56mm  
JHP hunting  
ammunition

**5.56mm ammunition** comes in a wide variety of constructions. The rounds with lead cores typically used for hunting and target shooting can be stopped with Level III hard armor plates.



5.56mm FMJ,  
M855 "Green Tip"  
partial steel core  
ammunition

**5.56mm ammunition** is designed for military use, with a steel or partial-steel core, and needs a ceramic or metallic component to the hard armor plate to stop it. Some Level III armor have a ceramic/metallic face. If you have identified the M855 or other similarly designed steel core ammunition as a potential threat, a Level IV plate is the best choice for protection among the armors on the Ballistic Armor Compliant Product List (CPL).

### Quick Facts

5.56mm/.223 jacketed hollow point (JHP) ammunition has a lead core. Level III armor or greater is the best choice for protection among the armors on the CPL.

5.56mm/.223 Green Tip FMJ ammunition has a part steel core. Level IV armor is the best choice for protection among the armors on the CPL

### Ballistic Armor CPL:

<https://cjtec.org/compliance-testing-program/compliant-product-lists/>

The above is a snapshot of select threat projectiles and classifications of armors related to these general threats. Refer to NIJ Standard-0101.06 for further details.

The National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program is operated as part of the Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium, a program of the Office of Justice Programs National Institute of Justice.