Standards and Conformity Assessment of Body Armor for Law Enforcement—

NIJ Compliance Testing Program
Body Armor Manufacturers Workshop

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Workshop agenda

**Morning**
- Introductions around the room
- NIJ and the CTP
- Laboratories
- NIJ standards

**Afternoon**
- Transition from “06” to “07” program
- Follow-up Inspection and Testing
- FAQ and Q&A
Introductions
The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

NIJ establishes and promulgates voluntary standards and conformity assessment for the criminal justice community.
Focus on the law enforcement practitioner

NIJ fosters development of equipment standards and related conformity assessment programs that specifically address the needs of law enforcement, corrections, and other criminal justice agencies.

Raises the bar for safety, reliability, and performance

The goal is to ensure to the degree possible that equipment is safe, reliable, and performs according to established minimum requirements.

Documentary standards and guides

The work products are documentary standards and guides, which can be used as guidance for the selection, procurement, use, care, maintenance, and replacement of technology and equipment for the law enforcement and public safety community.
NIJ Performance Standards and Guides

Performance standard

Guide on selecting and using body armor
Driven by consensus and stakeholder engagement

NIJ favors consensus-driven processes when developing standards. The inclusive nature of the process involves all stakeholders, from law enforcement end users to manufacturers and industry.

Coordinate with private-sector SDOs

NIJ has coordinated with private sector standards development organizations (SDO) like ASTM to develop and publish standards relevant to the criminal justice community. Several of these ASTM standards form the building blocks of NIJ Standard 0101.07.

Testing and certification of products

NIJ certifies models of armor panels and plates through its Compliance Testing Program (CTP). Models that meet NIJ ballistic resistance performance requirements are listed on the Compliant Products List (CPL) and bear the “NIJ Mark” on the label.
NIJ Compliance Testing Program

- Used by BJA’s Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP)
- Used by NASPO ValuePoint, a state government cooperative purchasing consortium
- Used by individual law enforcement agencies and officers
- “NIJ Mark” on every label of armor produced since late 2016 for models listed on the CPL

Compliant Products List
Overview of NIJ Standard 0101.07

Specifies the minimum performance requirements and test methods for the ballistic resistance of body armor used by U.S. law enforcement that is intended to protect the torso against handgun and rifle ammunition.

Overview of NIJ Standard 0123.00

Specifies the NIJ ballistic protection levels and associated test threats identified by U.S. law enforcement as representative of current prevalent threats in the United States.
ASTM Standards Referenced in NIJ Standard 0101.07

D5264-98(2019) – Practice for Abrasion Resistance of Printed Materials by the Sutherland Rub Test


E3005-20 – Standard Terminology for Body Armor

E3062/E3062M-20 – Standard Specification for Ballistic Test Ranges for Small Arms and Fragmentation Testing of Ballistic-resistant Items

ASTM Standards Referenced in NIJ Standard 0101.07

E3078/E3078M-23 – Standard Practice for Conditioning of Hard Armor Test Items

E3107-23 – Standard Test Method for Resistance to Penetration and Backface Deformation for Ballistic-resistant Torso Body Armor and Shoot Packs


E3112/E3112M-20 – Standard Test Method for Ballistic-resistant Products and Shoot Packs

E3192-20 – Standard Practice for Soft Body Armor Conditioning By Tumbling
Getting to an NIJ Compliant Products List for Law Enforcement and Corrections Equipment Products

NIJ Compliant Products List (CPL)

Individual Normative Documents

- NIJ Threats
- ASTM Standards
- NIJ STC Integration

Draft NIJ Performance Standard

- NIJ Threats
- ASTM Standards

Public Comment

Reconcile Comments

Validation Testing

Make Revisions

Legal Review

Brief NIJ Director

Update NIJ Compliance Testing Program

NIJ Product Certification System

- NIJ Product Certification Scheme

NIJ Recognition

- Laboratories
- NVLAP Accreditation

NIJ Standards

Law Enforcement and Corrections Equipment LAP

NVLAP

NIJ Performance Standard

- NIJ Threats
- ASTM Standards

NIJ Director

Publication

NVLAP: National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program

STC: Special Technical Committee

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Anticipated laboratory participation in the NIJ CTP for testing body armor to NIJ 0101.07

Arizona—
   Energetic Test Labs, Phoenix, AZ

Kansas—
   Element Materials Technology, Wichita, KS

Maryland—
   Chesapeake Testing, Belcamp, MD
   SMS Testing, Rising Sun, MD

Oregon—
   Oregon Ballistic Laboratories, Salem, OR
Questions

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Office of Technology and Standards

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