



# Body Armor Compliance Testing Program (CTP)

**NIJ**

A program of the National Institute of Justice

Aug. 6, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE CLARIFICATION CTP 2015:04

## Topic: Stab or ballistic-resistant body armor designs that contain potentially hazardous materials

The National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program (CTP) recently received ballistic-resistant body armor test samples that contained a material identified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as hazardous. This insufficiently documented submission caused the CTP work area, which is not equipped to handle such materials, to be temporarily closed and subject to a controlled cleaning process. To safeguard against any similar future incidents, the CTP is now requiring that any stab or ballistic-resistant body armor submitted to the CTP that contains atypical or “innovative” materials, including specialized material coatings, highlight the inclusion of such materials in their CTP submission package. Furthermore, the Applicant must submit a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for all materials that are part of the construction of the armor regardless of whether they are considered atypical or not.

When materials that are atypical are identified, the Applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CTP that the materials submitted are safe to handle in their “as received,” “during testing” and “post testing” conditions. If an Applicant is unable to demonstrate materials are safe to handle in an office environment, the Applicant shall provide the CTP with safe handling instructions, which the CTP must determine to be adequate. In some cases, the Applicant may be required to provide the CTP, to the CTP’s satisfaction, with the capability to safely handle the materials in question.

It also the responsibility of the Applicant to notify the NIJ-approved test laboratory that has been selected to conduct the test that the armor contains materials that are atypical or have been identified as hazardous by OSHA.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the CTP with any questions they may have regarding the submission of armor.