



National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program

A program of the National Institute of Justice

MEMORANDUM

From: National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program (NIJ CTP)

To: NIJ CTP Participants

Date: Aug. 1, 2014

Subject: BA 9000

Ballistic-resistant body armor manufacturers are now able to have their quality management systems (QMS) certified as conforming to BA 9000. This provides manufacturers the opportunity to reduce the frequency of surveillance inspections related to the National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program (NIJ CTP).

BA 9000 is the application of ISO 9001 to ballistic-resistant body armor manufacturing. When a manufacturing facility operates a QMS certified as conforming to BA 9000, this provides additional confidence in the manufacturer's ability to both meet the needs of criminal justice practitioners and consistently produce body armor that continues to represent those samples used for initial performance testing.

Although demonstration of conformity of the QMS with BA 9000 also demonstrates compliance with ISO 9001, conformity of the QMS with ISO 9001 does not of itself demonstrate compliance with BA 9000. Therefore, certification to ISO 9001 alone is not sufficient for purposes related to the NIJ CTP.

In order for ballistic-resistant body armor manufacturers to have their QMS certified as conforming to BA 9000, they must contact an acceptable certification body accredited by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to perform this work. ANAB provides a searchable directory at the following link:
<http://anabdirectory.remoteauditor.com/>

Selecting "BA 9000" in the dropdown box for "Standard" will provide a current list of certification bodies capable of performing this work.

Before surveillance inspections can be reduced, the manufacturer must request a reduction in surveillance frequency and provide evidence of BA 9000 certification to the NIJ CTP. This includes:

1. A request letter from an applicant's authorized representative or signatory identifying the affected manufacturing locations and models.
2. Copies of applicable BA 9000 certificates.

In order maintain confidence in a particular body armor model's performance, it is vital for manufacturers to maintain consistent processes when manufacturing the model regardless of the location where the manufacturing occurs. Consistent with this philosophy, the NIJ CTP will not recognize a manufacturing location's BA 9000 certification for a reduction in surveillance inspections unless all models manufactured at that location are limited to being manufactured only at manufacturing locations similarly certified as operating a BA 9000 compliant QMS.

After receipt and confirmation of the required information, the NIJ CTP shall make appropriate adjustments to future surveillance inspections not yet scheduled.

If you have any questions, please contact the NIJ CTP at (800) 248-2742 or email us at bactp@justnet.org.