

MARCH 2012

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
National Institute of Justice



**NIJ**

**STANDARDS**

**Public Safety Bomb Suit  
Certification Program Requirements  
NIJ CR-0117.00**

*NIJ.gov*

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs**

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# **Public Safety Bomb Suit Certification Program Requirements**

**NIJ CR-0117.00**

March 2012

NCJ 237910

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE**

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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART).

### Panel of Experts

This document was developed by a panel of practitioners, technical experts, and others with experience in standards development and conformity assessment. Panel members, their organizations and their professional affiliations or expertise are listed in Table 1 and Table 2.

**Table 1. Practitioners**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Local (Retired)	Martin Hutchings, Lead	Sacramento (Calif.) Sheriff's Department	National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB)
Local	Tom Sharkey	Metro Transit (WMATA) Police Department	NBSCAB
Local	Albert Wessel	Allegheny County (Pa.) Police Department	NBSCAB
Local	Ursula Wiebusch	Hartford (Conn.) Police Department	NBSCAB
State	Christopher Ennis	Delaware State Police Department	NBSCAB

**Table 2. Subject Matter and Technical Experts**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Federal	Rich Campbell	U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	Marina Carboni	U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering (RD&E) Center	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	Fred Chan	U.S. Army Natick Soldier RD&E Center	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	David Colanto	U.S. Army Natick Soldier RD&E Center	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	Gordon Gillerman	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology	Conformity Assessment
Federal	Jerry Harkleroad	U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hazardous Devices School	Instructor
Federal	Jeffrey Horlick (contractor)	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology	Conformity Assessment
Federal	Everett Johnson (contractor)	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Science and Technology	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	Rich McKee	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention	Subject Matter Expert
Federal	Casandra Robinson (contractor)	U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River National Laboratory	Standards, Conformity Assessment
Federal	Mike Zielinski	U.S. Army Natick Soldier RD&E Center	Subject Matter Expert
Private	Pat Gleason	Safety Equipment Institute	Standards, Conformity Assessment
Private	Richard James	Lockheed Martin Corporation (NLECTC-National)	Conformity Assessment
Private	Pam Kavalesky	Intertek Test Laboratory	Testing

### **Advisory Working Group**

The work of the panel was reviewed by an Advisory Working Group (AWG) made up of senior-level representatives from stakeholder organizations and individuals with experience in standards development and conformity assessment. Organizations represented on the AWG are listed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. AWG Members**

<b>Organization</b>
Fraternal Order of Police
International Association of Chiefs of Police
National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board
National Sheriffs' Association
National Tactical Officers Association
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Defense, Technical Support Working Group
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Explosives Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Office of Standards
U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hazardous Devices School

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee generally directed the effort and helped to ensure coordination among relevant federal programs. The following were the members of the Steering Committee (shown in Table 4 with their respective organizations during the development of this document).

**Table 4. Steering Committee Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Ellen Scrivner, Chair	U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice	Deputy Director
Bert Coursey	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Office of Standards	Director
Mark Stolorow	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Law Enforcement Standards Office	Director

## FOREWORD

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), has developed this document, NIJ CR-0117.00, *Public Safety Bomb Suit Certification Program Requirements*, which specifies the requirements that a certification body must satisfy in order to act as a product certification body for purposes of NIJ Standard-0117.00, *Public Safety Bomb Suit Standard*.

Those seeking guidance concerning the selection and application of public safety bomb suits may wish to refer to NIJ Guide-0117.00, *Public Safety Bomb Suit Selection and Application Guide*, published as a separate document.

NIJ standards are subject to continued research, development and testing, review and modification as appropriate on an ongoing basis. Users of this document are advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from [www.nij.gov/standards](http://www.nij.gov/standards), on a regular basis to determine whether the document has been revised or superseded.

Technical comments and recommended revisions are welcome. Please send all written comments and suggestions to: Director, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, 20531, ATTN: NIJ Standards and Testing Program.

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Nothing in this document is intended to create any legal or procedural rights enforceable against the United States. Moreover, nothing in this document creates any obligation for manufacturers, suppliers, public safety agencies, or others to follow or adopt any NIJ voluntary equipment standard.

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## **1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

### **1.1 Scope**

This document specifies requirements for compliance determinations under the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) *Public Safety Bomb Suit Standard* (hereafter, NIJ Standard-0117.00).

### **1.2 Purpose and Applications**

- 1.2.1** This document addresses accreditation requirements for certification bodies to (1) help ensure consistent application of NIJ Standard-0117.00 and this document, (2) establish uniformity in the certification body accreditation process, and (3) provide transparent criteria for the operation of certification programs and accreditation of product certification bodies.
- 1.2.2** To acquire or maintain accreditation, certification bodies shall meet or continue to meet the requirements established by this document, including any matter incorporated by reference.
- 1.2.3** The requirements of International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Guide 65 are hereby incorporated by reference, except as they may conflict with any provision of this document.

### **1.3 Interpretations**

- 1.3.1** Requests for interpretations of these certification program requirements shall be made in writing to: Director, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, 20531, ATTN: NIJ Standards and Testing Program. Additional contact information may be found at [www.nij.gov/standards](http://www.nij.gov/standards).

### **1.4 Special Rules**

- 1.4.1** In order to act as a product certification body for purposes of NIJ Standard-0117.00 or this document, it is necessary to be designated as a certification body by NIJ. In the ordinary course, receipt and maintenance of accreditation from an accrediting body automatically confers NIJ designation with no further action by NIJ required.
- 1.4.2** NIJ reserves the authority to introduce new or revised requirements and to set transition times for compliance with those requirements.
- 1.4.3** NIJ reserves the authority to communicate with any criminal justice agency or the public to address officer safety concerns.

## 2. REFERENCES

The following publications are referenced in this document. For publications listed immediately below with a date, only the edition cited applies. For undated publications, the latest edition of the referenced publication applies, including any amendments.

### 2.1 ISO/IEC Publications

ISO/IEC Guide 65:1997. *General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems*.

ISO 9000:2005. *Quality Management Systems — Fundamentals and Vocabulary*.

ISO 9001. *Quality Management Systems — Requirements*.

ISO/IEC Guide 23:1982. *Methods of Indicating Conformity with Standards for Third-party Certification Systems*.

ISO/IEC 17000:2004. *Conformity Assessment — Vocabulary and General Principles*.

ISO/IEC 17020. *General Criteria for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection*.

ISO/IEC 17021. *Conformity Assessment — Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems*.

ISO/IEC 17025. *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*.

### 2.2 NIJ Publication

NIJ Standard-0117.00, *Public Safety Bomb Suit Standard*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

In general, the definitions found in ISO/IEC Guide 65, ISO 9000 and ISO/IEC 17000 are incorporated by reference, except as they may conflict with the definitions below. Some definitions from incorporated matter are included below for convenience.

**3.1 Accreditation:** Third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. (ISO/IEC 17000, 5.6)

**3.2 Attestation:** Issue of a statement, based on a decision following review, that fulfillment of specified requirements has been demonstrated. (ISO/IEC 17000, 5.2)

**3.3 Audit:** Systematic, independent, documented process for obtaining records, statements of

fact or other relevant information and assessing them objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled. (ISO/IEC 17000, 4.4)

- 3.4 Certification:** Third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons. (ISO/IEC 17000, 5.5)
- 3.5 Certification body:** Any body operating a product certification system. (ISO/IEC Guide 65, 1.1, 1.2)
- 3.6 Certified product:** Any unit of a compliant model.
- 3.7 Certified model listing:** A publicly accessible enumeration of compliant models.
- 3.8 Complaint:** Expression of dissatisfaction, other than an appeal, from any source.
- 3.9 Compliance/Compliant:** The condition of a bomb suit model's meeting or exceeding all applicable requirements of NIJ Standard-0117.00 as determined pursuant and subject to this document.
- 3.10 Inspection:** Examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, with general requirements. (ISO/IEC 17000, 4.3)
- 3.11 Manufacturer:** A commercial enterprise engaged in fabricating a product.
- 3.12 Mark of conformity:** A legally registered certification mark applied by or issued under the procedures of a third-party certification system for a product or service which is in conformity with specific standards or other technical specifications. (ISO Guide 23, 3.1)
- 3.13 Model:** The manufacturer's design, with unique specifications and characteristics, of a particular item.
- 3.14 Product:** Except where the context indicates otherwise (e.g., in certain ISO documents), the term "product" means one unit of a particular model.
- 3.15 Safety alert:** Notification to users or the public of an actual or potential safety issue with a specific product(s) or model(s), including identification of the product(s) or model(s); a description of the concern, its ramifications, and how it was identified; recommended actions to be taken; and/or other relevant information.
- 3.16 Supplier:** The party that is responsible for ensuring that products meet and, if applicable, continue to meet, the requirements on which the certification is based. (ISO/IEC Guide 65, 3.1)
- 3.17 Surveillance:** Systematic iteration of conformity assessment activities as a basis for maintaining the validity of the statement of conformity. (ISO/IEC 17000, 6.1)
- 3.18 Suspension:** Temporary invalidation.

**3.19 Withdrawal:** Revocation or cancellation.

#### **4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**4.1** Any determination of compliance with NIJ Standard-0117.00 shall be made pursuant and subject to the requirements of this document.

**4.2** The certification body shall be accredited to the requirements of this document and ISO/IEC Guide 65. Accreditation of the certification body shall be issued by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) for the scope of product certification.

**4.3** To acquire or maintain accreditation, the certification body shall give prior written consent to the accreditation body's provision to NIJ (upon its request) of information gained in the course of the accreditation body's activities.

**4.4** For conducting testing, the certification body shall use only test laboratories that are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

**4.4.1** The test laboratory's scope of accreditation shall include the standard or test method for which it is supplying data.

**4.4.2** The test laboratory shall be independent of any supplier.

**4.5** If the certification body elects to use external inspection bodies for conducting manufacturing facility inspections and audits, any such use shall meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020.

**4.6** The certification body shall not process or provide certifications as to compliance with portions or segments of NIJ Standard-0117.00 and shall not allow a supplier to use any reference to NIJ Standard-0117.00 in any statements about its products or models unless the applicable model is compliant.

**4.7** Prior to any initial determination of compliance, the certification body shall obtain:

(1) Written consent of the supplier for the certification body to provide to NIJ (upon its request) information gained in the course of the certification body's activities relating to the supplier or a particular product or model; and

(2) Written agreement from the supplier to promptly provide supplier records (see Section 10.2 and 10.3) to NIJ upon its request.

**4.8** The certification body shall promptly provide to NIJ (upon its request) any information:

(1) Pertaining to the compliance of any product or model; or

(2) Pertaining to its accreditation.

**4.9** The certification body shall promptly notify NIJ of any product recall notices it receives under Section 10.2.

**4.10** The certification body shall require the supplier to include, prominently, in the user information for each bomb suit, the following:

“Potential purchasers and users are strongly advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from [www.nij.gov/standards](http://www.nij.gov/standards), and to review carefully any safety notice or other advisory that NIJ may have issued concerning public safety bomb suits.”

## **5. INITIAL DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE**

**5.1** The certification body shall have a program for initial determination of compliance of models.

**5.2** At a minimum, the program shall include inspection, audit, and testing as required by NIJ Standard-0117.00 and this document, including the following:

- (1) Labeling and marking as specified in Section 8;
- (2) Supplier’s applicable manufacturing facilities; and
- (3) Supplier’s management systems as specified in Section 10, and related procedures, records, and documentation.

## **6. INSPECTION, AUDIT, AND TESTING**

**6.1** For both initial determination of compliance and surveillance, the certification body shall conduct inspection, audit, and testing as specified in this section or otherwise in this document.

**6.2** Where feasible, surveillance inspections of manufacturing facilities, and related audits, shall be unannounced.

**6.3** Inspection shall include the following:

- (1) Review of applicable form and fit requirements under NIJ Standard-0117.00, for at least one bomb suit;
- (2) Review of required product labels under NIJ Standard-0117.00, for at least one bomb suit; and
- (3) Review of any manufacturing facilities.

**6.4** Audit shall include a review of the following:

- (1) Applicable form and fit requirements under NIJ Standard-0117.00;
- (2) Required user information and technical data package under NIJ Standard-0117.00; and
- (3) Supplier's management systems as specified in Section 10, and related procedures, records, and documentation.

**6.5** The certification body shall not use specimens (i.e., conditioned samples) or test results provided by a supplier.

## **7. CERTIFIED MODEL LISTING**

**7.1** The certification body shall maintain a certified model listing of applicable models, including a web-based listing.

**7.2** Any certified model listing shall display the following prominently:

“Potential purchasers and users are strongly advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from [www.nij.gov/standards](http://www.nij.gov/standards), and to review carefully any safety notice or other advisory that NIJ may have issued concerning public safety bomb suits.”

## **8. LABELING AND MARKING**

**8.1** The certification body shall not authorize suppliers to use any mark of conformity or reference to the certification body on any product other than a certified product.

**8.1.1** The certification body shall require its mark of conformity to be part of, attached to, or immediately adjacent to a product label that otherwise satisfies the requirements for labeling in NIJ Standard-0117.00.

**8.1.2** The certification body shall require its mark of conformity to be legibly printed.

## **9. SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**9.1** The certification body shall have a surveillance program for compliant models to determine continued compliance, and all such models shall undergo surveillance.

**9.2** At a minimum, the surveillance program shall include the following:

- (1) Inspection and audit as specified in Section 6, annually; and
- (2) Testing to the performance requirements for compliant models as required by NIJ Standard-0117.00, per Table 5 of Appendix A of this document.

**9.3** The certification body may use products from the supplier's production line or inventory, or from the open market, for surveillance inspection and surveillance testing.

- 9.4** The certification body shall require the supplier to submit any proposed change(s) to a compliant model and related documentation prior to implementation of a change. The certification body shall evaluate the change(s) and impact to the model and determine (1) which tests are required to be performed, if any, to demonstrate continued compliance, or (2) if the change is so significant that the change will result in a new model.

**10. SUPPLIER'S MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

- 10.1** The certification body shall require the supplier to be certified/registered to ISO 9001 (with respect to manufacturing public safety bomb suits) by a certification body that is accredited as conforming to ISO/IEC 17021 by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the IAF MLA.
- 10.2** The certification body shall require that the supplier have in place a documented product recall process to be used in the event that the supplier decides, or is required by the certification body, to issue a product recall. The product recall process shall satisfy the certification body.
- 10.3** The certification body shall require suppliers to maintain at least the following records for a minimum of ten years:
- (1) Information provided by the certification body relating to the supplier or a particular product or model;
  - (2) Information prepared in response to the certification body's certification-program-related activities;
  - (3) Returns and complaints related to certified products and actions taken in response;
  - (4) Documentation related to certified product recall.

**11. REPORTS OF NONCOMPLIANCE, LACK OF FITNESS FOR INTENDED PURPOSE, FAILURE IN USE, OR SAFETY ISSUES**

- 11.1** The certification body shall establish procedures for dealing with reports (or indications) from any source, including surveillance, that certified products are noncompliant, are unfit for the intended purpose, have failed in use, or involve a safety issue.
- 11.2** When a report under Section 11.1 is received by the certification body, the credibility of the report shall be investigated.
- 11.2.1** When investigation reveals that the report is other than frivolous, the certification body shall notify NIJ promptly, providing, at minimum, supplier name(s), model number(s), and the substance of the allegation(s).
- 11.3** The certification body shall require the supplier promptly to notify it in writing whenever the supplier determines that a certified product may be noncompliant, be unfit for the intended purpose, have failed in use, or involve a safety issue. The certification body

shall require the supplier to provide information about its review, to assist the certification body with its investigation.

- 11.3.1** The certification body shall require the supplier to notify it of any safety alert or certified product recall not initiated by the certification body, as soon as the decision to issue the same has been made.
- 11.4** If the investigation reveals the certified product to be noncompliant, to be unfit for the intended purpose, to have failed in use, or to involve a safety issue, and action is indicated, the certification body, with prompt notice to NIJ, shall take at minimum one or more of the following actions:
- (1) Require the supplier to issue a safety alert, when, in the opinion of the certification body, such an alert is necessary or advisable to inform users or the public;
  - (2) Require the supplier to issue a product recall, when, in the opinion of the certification body, such a recall is necessary or advisable to protect users or the public;
  - (3) Suspend or withdraw the model certification;
  - (4) Remove the product from its certified model listing or to annotate its certified model listing entry, as appropriate, to explain the action(s); and
  - (5) Take such action(s) as may be appropriate.

The certification body shall provide a report to NIJ of its findings and related information, promptly upon request.

**APPENDIX A. TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

**Table 5. Initial Compliance and Surveillance**

<b>Test Method</b>	<b>Initial Compliance Testing Requirements</b>	<b>Surveillance Testing Requirements</b>
Donning and Quick Doffing	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Incapacitated Doffing	One bomb suit sized to fit the test surrogate.	None.
Static Field of View (FOV)	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Dynamic FOV: Head Rotation Only	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Dynamic FOV: Head and Body Motion	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Coin Recovery	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Lie on Back and Stand Up	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Test Course	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Gross Body Mobility	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Fogging Assessment	One bomb suit in each of the smallest and largest sizes offered.	None.
Optics: Distortion	Three samples of each size face shield.	None.
Optics: Luminous Transmittance	Three samples of each size face shield.	None.
Optics: Refractive Power	Three samples of each size face shield.	None.
Optics: Prismatic Deviation	Three samples of each size face shield.	None.
Optics: Haze	Three samples of each size face shield.	None.

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<b>Test Method</b>	<b>Initial Compliance Testing Requirements</b>	<b>Surveillance Testing Requirements</b>
Flammability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five specimens in the warp direction per each type of outer surface material.</li> <li>• Five specimens in the fill direction per each type of outer surface material.</li> <li>• Three helmets (may be reused for impact test) or three helmet shells.</li> </ul>	<p>Frequency of surveillance testing: Upon the sale of 300 bomb suits but no more frequently than once each year and no less frequently than once every three years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five specimens in the warp direction per each type of outer surface material.</li> <li>• Five specimens in the fill direction per each type of outer surface material.</li> <li>• One helmet (may be reused for impact test) or one helmet shell.</li> </ul>
Electrostatic Discharge: Resistance measurement	One bomb suit in any size.	None.
Electrostatic Discharge: Strap Intact	Performed during test course.	None.
Head Protection: Impact	Nine helmets, three each configured to fit three headforms (small, medium, large).	<p>Frequency of surveillance testing: Upon the sale of 300 bomb suits but no more frequently than once each year and no less frequently than once every three years.</p> <p>Two complete helmets, one each configured to the large headform and tested at extreme environmental conditions of high and low temperature.</p>
Spine Protection - Impact	Three facsimile samples of each size.	<p>Frequency of surveillance testing: Upon the sale of 300 bomb suits but no more frequently than once each year and no less frequently than once every three years.</p> <p>One facsimile sample of each size.</p>

<b>Test Method</b>	<b>Initial Compliance Testing Requirements</b>	<b>Surveillance Testing Requirements</b>
<p>Fragmentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six facsimile samples for each protection area with fabric protection (including plate inserts where appropriate).</li> <li>• Six helmets (three helmets per threat round).</li> <li>• Minimum of three face shields.</li> </ul>	<p>Frequency of surveillance testing: Upon the sale of 300 bomb suits but no more frequently than once each year and no less frequently than once every three years.</p> <p>Fragmentation testing shall be performed on one facsimile sample per threat round for two protection areas with fabric protection (including plate inserts where appropriate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One test shall be performed on the protective element for one of the following protection areas: torso medial or neck medial. The area shall be selected in random order. Neither of these areas may be selected again before the other is tested.</li> <li>• The other of the two tests shall be performed on the protective element for one of the protection areas not listed above. The area shall be selected in a random sequence. With respect to each sequence, none of these areas may be selected more than once.</li> <li>• If the facsimile sample fails, two additional facsimile samples shall be tested and the procedure for calculations detailed in NIJ Standard-0117.00 shall be followed.</li> </ul> <p>Fragmentation testing shall be performed on two helmets (one helmet per threat round) and one face shield.</p>

Public Safety Bomb Suit Certification Program Requirements

<b>Test Method</b>	<b>Initial Compliance Testing Requirements</b>	<b>Surveillance Testing Requirements</b>
Bomb Suit Integrity	One bomb suit.	<p>Frequency of surveillance testing: Upon the sale of 300 bomb suits but no more frequently than once each year and no less frequently than once every three years.</p> <p>Bomb suit integrity surveillance testing may be performed by the supplier and witnessed by the certification body. One bomb suit shall be subjected to one explosion.</p>
Drag Rescue Device	One suit sized to fit test surrogate.	None.
Slip Resistance	Two samples of walking surface.	None.
Label Durability: Wear	Three labels sewn onto suit material.	None.
Label Durability: Chemical	Three labels.	None.

## About the Law Enforcement and Corrections Standards and Testing Program

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standards and Testing Program is sponsored by the NIJ Office of Science and Technology within the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. The program responds to provisions in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 that authorize the NIJ Office of Science and Technology to establish and maintain performance standards (in accordance with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995) for law enforcement technologies that may be used by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and to test and evaluate those technologies. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 also authorizes the NIJ Office of Science and Technology to establish and maintain a program to certify, validate and mark or otherwise recognize law enforcement technology products that conform to the standards mentioned above.

The NIJ Standards and Testing Program works to identify the needs of state and local criminal justice system practitioners for equipment standards and test protocols, develops voluntary performance standards for specific criminal justice tools and technologies, establishes conformity assessment requirements for demonstrating that commercially available equipment conforms to those standards, and publishes listings of product models that have been tested through one or more specified organizations and found to comply with the standards. The standards development process begins with the operational needs and requirements of practitioners in the field being defined, and, based on those needs, the standards are developed principally by a special technical committee led by criminal justice practitioners and including testing and conformity assessment experts, other technical experts, federal partners and members from practitioner stakeholder organizations. Manufacturers, vendors and other interested parties are provided with an opportunity to review and comment on draft standards prior to their publication.

As indicated above, all NIJ standards developed through the Standards and Testing Program are voluntary standards. There is no requirement or obligation for manufacturers, law enforcement agencies or others to follow or adopt these voluntary law enforcement technology equipment standards. The primary intent of these standards is to provide the end user of a model of equipment found to be compliant with a particular standard with performance information on key equipment characteristics, provide a level of confidence in that particular model's fitness for use in specified circumstances and allow comparison of product models based on standardized testing methods and performance requirements. These standards do not specify a particular solution but rather define what a potential solution must accomplish. The ultimate goal is to help ensure to the degree possible that law enforcement technology equipment is safe, reliable and effective.

Publications related to the Standards and Testing Program, including the voluntary standards and associated documents, are available at no charge through the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-National (NLECTC-National) and also are available online at <http://www.nij.gov/standards> and <http://www.justnet.org>. To request a document or additional information, please call (800) 248-2742 or (301) 519-5060, or send an e-mail to [asknlectc@justnet.org](mailto:asknlectc@justnet.org).

Users of NIJ standards are advised to check with <http://www.nij.gov/standards> on a regular basis to determine whether a particular law enforcement technology equipment standard has been revised or superseded, or the compliance status of a particular model has changed.

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