



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

NIJ BALLISTIC-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR STANDARDS UPDATES

NIJ is proud to announce the release of new body armor standards 0101.07 and 0123.00.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research, development, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, has been publishing performance standards for ballistic-resistant police body armor for over 50 years. For many, knowing and understanding NIJ's standard for the testing and certification of ballistic protection gear is a critical first step in a body armor purchase. Standards are crucial to informing buyers and ensuring officer safety.

Our Goals

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.

Raise the bar for safety, reliability, and performance.

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

Create documentary standards and guides.

NIJ produces standards and guides, that 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.

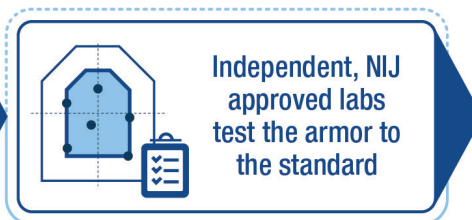


What's New in NIJ Standard 0101.07, *Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor?*

Working through ASTM International, NIJ collaborated with the U.S. Army, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, ballistics laboratories, body armor manufacturers, materials suppliers, and other stakeholders over the last decade to harmonize laboratory test procedures and practices relevant to ballistic testing. They produced a suite of ASTM test methods and laboratory practices that are used as the building blocks of NIJ Standard 0101.07.

The new standard contains:

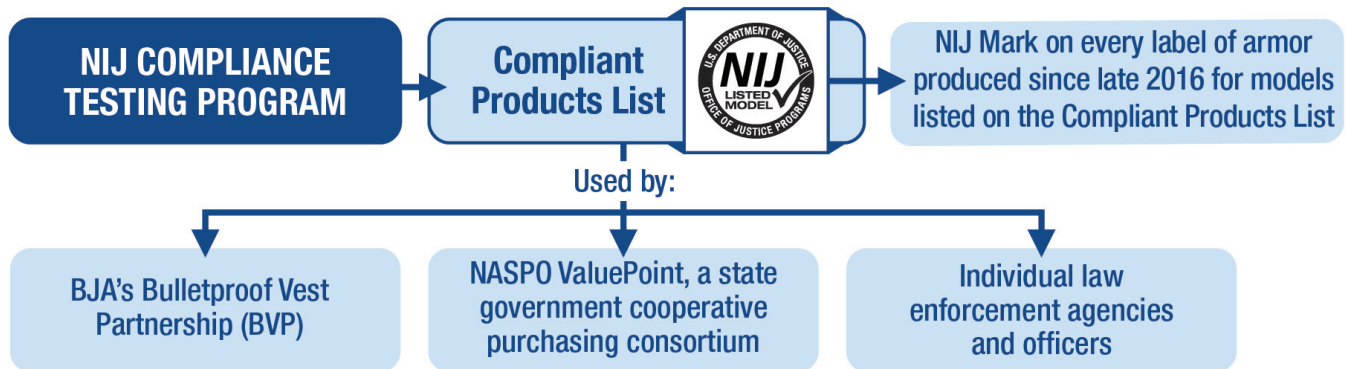
- Improvements to the test methods for armor designed for women.
- Perforation-backface deformation testing, updated to include an additional shot on soft armor panels near the top center edge.
- Reconfigured perforation-backface deformation testing on hard armor plates, to include striking the crown on curved plates.



What's in the New NIJ Standard 0123.00, *Specification for NIJ Ballistic Protection Levels and Associated Test Threats?*

This standard defines ballistic threat levels and their associated test ammunition. It lists common ballistic threats in the United States and is meant to be a companion to NIJ standard 0101.07. Several rifle threats have also been added for expanded testing of hard body armor.

NIJ moved the threat-level terminology from the preceding NIJ standard for the ballistic resistance of body armor (NIJ standard 0101.06) and revised it to be more descriptive and to reduce confusion among law enforcement officers and those who purchase their armor. It may also be used in testing a variety of ballistic-resistant equipment (not just ballistic-resistant body armor) against current U.S. law enforcement threats, although the specification itself does not define any test methods.



Compliant Products

In concert with the NIJ Compliance Testing Program, NIJ publishes a [Compliant Products List](#) of armor models that meet program requirements. Ballistics laboratories recognized by NIJ have tested each listed model to the current standard. The list presents over 400 models of ballistic-resistant body armor that are compliant with the prior version of the standard (NIJ standard 0101.06 and published in 2008).

The **NIJ Compliance Testing Program** is NIJ's body armor certification program, which tests armor designed to protect against common handgun, rifle, and stab threats. The program ensures that the body armor bought and used by U.S. law enforcement and correctional agencies meets minimum performance requirements. The NIJ Compliance Testing Program is voluntary, and manufacturers are responsible for submitting their products to the program for testing.

What About the Body Armor I Wear Now?

Keep wearing it! NIJ will continue to maintain its current list of armor that has already been certified to the previous standard for several years so that manufacturers and agencies can transition to armor that meets the new standard. Given the large number of ballistic-resistant vests currently worn by law enforcement officers, the NIJ Compliance Testing Program anticipates maintaining the NIJ standard 0101.06 Compliant Products List through at least year-end 2027.

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