



National Institute of Justice
Technology Assessment

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

POLICE BODY ARMOR Consumer Product List

The body armor models identified in this Consumer Product List (CPL) have been tested by the National Institute of Justice Technology Assessment Program and found to comply with the requirements of NIJ Standard-0101.03, Ballistic Resistance of Police Body Armor (April 1987). Armor that complies with the standard meets the minimum performance requirements critical for police protection.

This CPL will be updated in 6 months to include additional models of armor that have been tested and found to comply with the standard. Manufacturer models not included in this CPL may or may not have been tested by NIJ.

This Consumer Product List is divided into two general categories of body armor: armor suitable for routine full-time wear, which includes types I, II-A, and II; and armor suitable for terrorist threat and tactical use only (when weight and bulk are less of a factor), which includes types III-A, III, and IV. To comply with the NIJ standard, an armor

model must, on inspection, meet the workmanship and labeling requirements of the standard. The armor also must meet the penetration and deformation requirements when tested in both wet and dry conditions.

When using this CPL to purchase armor, select armor that will provide the necessary level of protection. Armor selection is briefly discussed below. You are also encouraged to read NIJ Guide 100-87, "Selection and Application Guide to Police Body Armor," which discusses armor in depth.

Body Armor Selection

Police administrators should make every effort to encourage their officers to wear body armor throughout each duty shift. Although designed primarily to provide protection against handgun assault, soft body armor has prevented serious and potentially fatal injuries from traffic accidents (both in automobiles and while operating motorcycles), from physical assault with improvised clubs, and to some extent from knives.

Law enforcement officer fatality statistics are compiled annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Analysis of the statistics suggests that a large percentage of the officer fatalities reported each year could have been prevented if the officer had been wearing armor.

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This Consumer Product List is obsolete 6 months after the date on the masthead. For the most current CPL or an updated list of those models that comply with the standard prior to the next published update, call or write the Technology Assessment Program Information Center, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850, 1-800-248-2742 (1-301-251-5060 in Maryland and Metropolitan Washington, D.C.).

CONSUMER PRODUCT LIST

Body Armor Complying With NIJ Standard 0101.03

Armor Suitable for Routine Full-Time Wear

Type I armor provides multiple hit protection against .38 Special RN lead 158 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 850 ft/s and .22 LRHV lead 40 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 1050 ft/s.

Type II-A armor provides multiple hit protection against .357 Magnum JSP 158 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 1250 ft/s and 9 mm FMJ 124 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 1090 ft/s.

Type II armor provides multiple hit protection against .357 Magnum JSP 158 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 1395 ft/s and 9 mm FMJ 124 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 1175 ft/s.

Manufacturer	Models complying by armor type*		
	Type I	Type II-A	Type II
American Body Armor	ABA-1 ABA-2 (Female) ABA-12	ABA-3 ABA-5	ABA-8
Blauer	12616	12632	
Point Blank	8 8 (Female) 10 10 (Female) 100 100 (Female)	15 150	20 (Female) 21 21 (Female) 200 (Female) 26/260 International 26/260 International (Female)
Protective Apparel Corporation			21-WC 21MS-PACA (Female)
Safariland	FLX1-12	CL-2A FLX2A-20	CL-2 FLX2-24
Second Chance		Y2AW	
U.S. Armor		USIIA-SP	

*The Technology Assessment Program (1-800-248-2742 or 1-301-251-5060 in Maryland and Metropolitan Washington, D.C.) will provide copies of the NIJ body armor guide and standard and complete test results for any or all of the models listed in this CPL. Test results for manufacturers' models that were tested and found not to comply with the standard are also available upon request.

CONSUMER PRODUCT LIST continued

Body Armor Complying With NIJ Standard 0101.03

Armor Suitable for Terrorist Threat and Tactical Use Only

Type III-A armor provides multiple hit protection against .44 Magnum lead SWC gas checked 240 gr bullets and 9 mm FMJ 124 gr bullets, both to a maximum velocity of 1400 ft/s.

Type III armor provides multiple hit protection against 7.62 mm (308 Winchester) FMJ 150 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 2750 ft/s.

Type IV armor provides at least single hit protection against 30-06 AP 166 gr bullets to a maximum velocity of 2850 ft/s.

Manufacturer	Models complying by armor type (see footnote on preceding page)			
	Type III-A	Type III	Type IV	Combination Types III and IV
Point Blank	30/300	DHSP		CP3

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The fundamental considerations in selecting armor are the threat to which officers are exposed and the nature of their own service weapons. Knowledge of the street weapons in the local area (confiscated weapons are a good indicator) is essential, for the armor should be selected to protect against the street threat or service weapons, whichever is the greater threat. Throughout the last decade, one in five officers killed was shot with his or her own weapon. Full coverage of the torso is critical since the most common fatalities among officers wearing armor result from bullets entering an officer's side through the opening between front and rear panels.

Type I body armor, which was issued during the NIJ demonstration project in 1975, is the minimum level of protection that any officer should have and is suit-

able for full-time wear. Officers who desire more than minimum protection should wear type II-A armor, which has been found sufficiently comfortable for full-time wear when the threat warrants it, particularly for departments that use lower velocity .357 Magnum service weapons. Type II armor, heavier and more bulky than type II-A, is worn full-time by officers in some departments but may not be considered suitable for full-time use in hot, humid climates.

Type III-A armor, which provides the highest level of protection available in soft body armor, is generally considered to be unsuitable for routine wear. However, individuals confronted with a terrorist threat may be willing to tolerate the weight and bulk of such armor while on duty. Types III and IV armor are clearly intended for use only in tactical situations when the threat warrants such protection.

It is absolutely essential that those who select body armor, and each officer who wears it, realize that there is no such thing as a bulletproof vest. The routine use of appropriate soft body armor significantly reduces the likelihood of fatal injury, but 100-percent protection in all circumstances is impossible. Body armor selection is to some extent a tradeoff between ballistic protection and wearability. The weight and comfort of soft body armor is inversely proportional to the level of ballistic protection that it provides.

All departments should strive to select armor that their officers will wear, consistent with their ballistic protection requirements. Agencies should ensure that each officer knows and understands the

protection that it affords, as well as its limitations. Body armor that is not worn provides no protection.

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The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice
Technology Assessment Program Information Center

Washington, D.C. 20531

**DON'T BECOME ANOTHER STATISTIC
WEAR YOUR ARMOR**