



**NIJ**

**STANDARDS**

**Law Enforcement CBRN Protective  
Ensemble Certification Program  
Requirements NIJ CR-0116.00**

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# **Law Enforcement CBRN Protective Ensemble Certification Program Requirements**

**NIJ CR-0116.00**

October 2011

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**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 Community Capacity Development Office; 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).

**Special Technical Committee**

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

**Table 1. Practitioners**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Professional Affiliation</b>
Local (retired)	Edward Bailor, Chairman	U.S. Capitol Police	Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Fraternal Order of Police, InterAgency Board, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, National Tactical Officers Association
Local	Edward Allen	Seminole County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department	National Tactical Officers Association
Local (former)	Mike Brown	National Sheriffs' Association	National Sheriffs' Association
Local (retired)	Martin Hutchings	Sacramento County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department	National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board
Local	Heather McArthur	Phoenix (Ariz.) Police Department	
Local	Thomas Nolan	Upper Merion Township (Pa.) Police Department	National Tactical Officers Association
Local	Kevin Sommers	Warren (Mich.) Police Department	Fraternal Order of Police
State	David McBath	New York State Police	InterAgency Board, International Association of Chiefs of Police
Federal	Hugh Breslin	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center	
Federal	Jerry Craig	U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration	
Federal	Charles Onesko	U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hazardous Materials Response Unit	

**Table 2. Technical Experts and Others**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Federal	Stephanie Elder	U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center	Ergonomics and test methods
Federal	Gordon Gillerman	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology	Conformity assessment and standards
Federal	William Haskell	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory	Emergency Responder Personal Protective Equipment performance criteria, test methods and standards
Federal	Gene Stark	U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Program, Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense	Chemical and biological protection for military personnel
Federal	Elaine Stewart-Craig	U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center	Chemical and biological protection for military personnel
Private	Steven Corrado	Underwriters Laboratories Inc.	Certification, compliance testing and standards
Private	Patricia Gleason	Safety Equipment Institute	Certification, testing and standards
Private	Thomas Neal	Neal Associates Ltd.	Standards and test methods
Private	Casandra Robinson	Savannah River National Laboratory	Standards, certification
Private	Bruce Teele	National Fire Protection Association	Standards

### Advisory Working Group

The work of the Special Technical Committee 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
InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability
International Association of Chiefs of Police, Center for Police Leadership
National Fire Protection Association
National Sheriffs' Association
National Tactical Officers Association
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for State and Local Law Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee directed the effort and helped to ensure coordination among relevant federal programs. Members of the Steering Committee and their organizations are listed in Table 4 below with their respective organizations during the development of this document.

**Table 4. Steering Committee Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
John Morgan, Chair	U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice	Deputy Director for Science and Technology
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, Office of Law Enforcement Standards	Director



## FOREWORD

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), has developed this document, NIJ CR-0116.00, *Law Enforcement CBRN Protective Ensemble Certification Program Requirements*, which specifies the requirements that a certification body must satisfy to act as a product certification body for purposes of NIJ Standard-0116.00, *CBRN Protective Ensemble Standard for Law Enforcement*.

Those seeking guidance about selecting and using chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) protective ensembles for law enforcement may wish to refer to NIJ Guide-0116.00, *NIJ Law Enforcement CBRN Protective Ensemble Selection and Application Guide*, published as a separate document.

NIJ would like especially to recognize the contributions of the National Fire Protection Association, which helped to develop this document.

NIJ standards are subject to continued research, development, testing, review and change. Users of NIJ Standard-0116.00 or this document are advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from [www.nij.gov/standards](http://www.nij.gov/standards), regularly to find out whether either document has been changed or superseded.

Technical comments and recommended revisions to NIJ Standard-0116.00 or this document 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 duty for manufacturers, law enforcement agencies or others to follow or adopt NIJ Standard-0116.00, which is a voluntary 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) *CBRN Protective Ensemble Standard for Law Enforcement* (NIJ Standard-0116.00).

### **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-0116.00 and this document, (2) set up uniformity in accreditation and (3) provide transparent criteria for certification programs and accreditation of product certification bodies.
- 1.2.2** To get or maintain accreditation, certification bodies shall meet or continue to meet the requirements set up 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 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 the Director, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, 20531, ATTN: NIJ Standards and Testing Program. More contact information may be found at <http://www.nij.gov/standards>.

### **1.4 Special Rules**

- 1.4.1** To act as a product certification body for purposes of NIJ Standard-0116.00 or this document, it is necessary to be named 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 needed.
- 1.4.2** NIJ reserves the right to introduce new or changed requirements and to set transition times for compliance with those requirements.
- 1.4.3** NIJ reserves the right 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 Operating 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-0116.00, *CBRN Protective Ensemble Standard for Law Enforcement*. 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 getting 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 CBRN:** An abbreviation for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear.
- 3.5 Certification:** Third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons (ISO/IEC 17000, 5.5).
- 3.6 Certification body:** Any body operating a product certification system. (ISO/IEC Guide 65, 1.1, 1.2)
- 3.7 Certified product:** Any unit of a compliant model.
- 3.8 Certified model listing:** A publicly accessible enumeration of compliant models.
- 3.9 Complaint:** Expression of dissatisfaction, other than an appeal, from any source.
- 3.10 Compliance/Compliant:** The condition of a CBRN protective ensemble model’s meeting or exceeding all applicable requirements of NIJ Standard-0116.00 as determined pursuant and subject to this document.
- 3.11 CWA:** An abbreviation for chemical warfare agent.
- 3.12 Inspection:** Examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, based on professional judgment, with general requirements (ISO/IEC 17000, 4.3).
- 3.13 Manufacturer:** A commercial enterprise engaged in fabricating a product.
- 3.14 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 that is in conformity with specific standards or other technical specifications. (ISO Guide 23, 3.1)
- 3.15 MIST:** An acronym for man-in-simulant test.
- 3.16 Model:** The manufacturer’s design, with unique specifications and characteristics, of a particular item.
- 3.17 Product:** Except where the context indicates otherwise (e.g., in certain ISO documents), the term “product” means one unit of a particular model.
- 3.18 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.

- 3.19 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). “Ensemble manufacturer” as used in NIJ Standard-0116.00 is synonymous with “supplier” as used in this document.
- 3.20 Surveillance:** Systematic iteration of conformity assessment activities as a basis for maintaining the validity of the statement of conformity (ISO/IEC 17000, 6.1).
- 3.21 Suspension:** Temporary invalidation.
- 3.22 TIC:** An acronym for toxic industrial chemical.
- 3.23 Withdrawal:** Revocation or cancellation.

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

- 4.1** Any determination of compliance with NIJ Standard-0116.00 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 get or maintain accreditation, the certification body shall give prior written consent to the accreditation body’s provision to NIJ (on its request) of information gained during 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 of compliance with portions or segments of NIJ Standard-0116.00, and shall not allow a supplier to use any reference to NIJ Standard-0116.00 in any statements about its products or models, unless the applicable model is compliant.

- 4.7** Before any initial determination of compliance, the certification body shall get:
- (1) Written consent of the supplier for the certification body to provide to NIJ (on its request) information gained during the certification body's activities about the supplier or a particular product or model; and
  - (2) Written agreement from the supplier to provide supplier records (see Section 10.2 and 10.3) promptly to NIJ upon its request.
- 4.8** The certification body shall promptly provide to NIJ (on 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 CBRN protective ensemble the following:
- “Potential buyers and users are strongly advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from <http://www.nij.gov/standards>, and to review carefully any safety notice or other advisory that NIJ may have issued about CBRN protective ensembles for law enforcement.”
- 4.11** The certification body shall get written agreement from the supplier that it will not change any respiratory protection specified for use with its CBRN protective ensemble model(s).

## **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-0116.00 and this document, including the following:
- (1) Labeling and marking as specified in Section 8.
  - (2) Supplier's applicable manufacturing facilities.
  - (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:
- (1) Confirmation that the supplier has not changed any respiratory protection specified for use with its CBRN protective ensemble model.
  - (2) Confirmation that the interface and integration of the respiratory protection specified for use with the CBRN protective ensemble model does not impair the functioning of the respiratory protection as certified by NIOSH to the performance requirements of *NIOSH Statement of Standard for CBRN SCBA*, *NIOSH Statement of Standard for CBRN APR* or *NIOSH Statement of Standard for CBRN PAPR*.<sup>1</sup>
  - (3) Review of applicable form and fit requirements under NIJ Standard-0116.00, for at least one CBRN protective ensemble.
  - (4) Review of required product labels under NIJ Standard-0116.00, for at least one CBRN protective ensemble.
  - (5) Review of any manufacturing facilities.
- 6.4** Audit shall include a review of the following:
- (1) Applicable form and fit requirements under NIJ Standard-0116.00.
  - (2) Required user information and technical data package under NIJ Standard-0116.00.
  - (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.
- 6.6** 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The certification body may permit the CBRN protective ensemble model supplier to use generally accepted industry practices for the interface and integration of respiratory protection with CBRN protective ensembles (e.g., use of a soft, flexible gasket material on the hood to provide a circumferential seal around the respirator facepiece).

## **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 buyers and users are strongly advised to consult the NIJ Standards and Testing Program webpage, accessed from <http://www.nij.gov/standards>, and to review carefully any safety notice or other advisory that NIJ may have issued about CBRN protective ensembles for law enforcement.”

## **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-0116.00.

**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:

(1) Inspection and audit as specified in Section 6, annually.

(2) Testing to the performance requirements for compliant models as required by NIJ Standard-0116.00, per Appendix A The certification body shall require the supplier to submit any proposed change(s) to a compliant model and related documentation before implementation of a change. The certification body shall evaluate the change(s) and impact to the model and determine:

- a. Which tests are required to be performed, if any, to demonstrate continued compliance.
- b. 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 CBRN protective ensembles) 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 10 years:
- (1) Information provided by the certification body about 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 set up procedures for dealing with reports (or indications) from any source, including surveillance, that certified products are noncompliant, are unfit for 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 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 help 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 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 tell 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).
  - (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 on request.

**APPENDIX A. Surveillance**

<i>System Level</i>			
<b>Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Every 2nd Year</b>	<b>Samples for Testing</b>
▪ MIST	X		1
▪ Ergonomics/dexterity	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Liquid penetration resistance		X	1
▪ Audible signature	Not applicable	Not applicable	0

<i>Garment Level</i>			
<b>Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Every 2nd Year</b>	<b>Samples for Testing</b>
▪ CWA/TICs	X		3, seams only
▪ Bloodborne pathogen resistance		X	3, seams only
▪ Expulsion	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Rain cabinet	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Tear strength		X	3
▪ Cold temperature		X	3
▪ Burst strength		X	3
▪ Seam/closure breaking strength	X		3
▪ Cut resistance		X	3
▪ Puncture resistance		X	2
▪ Total heat loss	X		1
▪ Flame protection (flash fire)	X		1
▪ Flame resistance	X		5
▪ Flame impingement		X	5
▪ Thermal protective performance		X	3
▪ Color/visibility	X		1

<i>Hand Protection Level</i>			
<b>Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Every 2nd Year</b>	<b>Samples for Testing</b>
▪ CWA/TICs	X		3, seams only
▪ Bloodborne pathogen resistance		X	3, seams only
▪ Expulsion	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Rain cabinet	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Cut resistance	X		3
▪ Puncture resistance	X		2
▪ Cold temperature		X	3
▪ Grip		X	1 per condition
▪ Seam/closure breaking strength	X		3
▪ Burst strength		X	3
▪ Tear strength		X	3
▪ Flame resistance	X		5
▪ Flame impingement		X	5
▪ Thermal protective performance		X	3
▪ Color/visibility	X		1

<i>Foot Protection Level</i>			
<b>Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Every 2nd Year</b>	<b>Samples for Testing</b>
▪ CWA/TICs	X		3, seams only
▪ Bloodborne pathogens		X	3, seams only
▪ Expulsion test	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Rain cabinet test	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
▪ Cut resistance	X		3
▪ Puncture resistance	X		2
▪ Abrasion resistance	X		5
▪ Slip resistance		X	1 per condition
▪ Flame resistance	X		5
▪ Flame impingement		X	5
▪ Thermal protective performance		X	3
▪ Color/visibility	X		1

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

The Standards and Testing Program is sponsored by the Office of Science and Technology of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The program responds to the mandate of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which directed the Office of Science and Technology to establish and maintain performance standards in accordance with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113) to test and evaluate law enforcement technologies that may be used by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 also directed the 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 Standards and Testing Program is a basic and applied research effort that determines the technological needs of justice system agencies, sets minimum performance standards for specific devices, tests commercially available equipment against those standards, and disseminates the standards and the test results to criminal justice agencies nationally and internationally.

The *Office of Law Enforcement Standards* (OLES) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology develops voluntary national performance standards for compliance testing to ensure that individual items of equipment are suitable for use by criminal justice agencies. The standards are based upon laboratory testing and evaluation of representative samples of each item of equipment to determine the key attributes, develop test methods and establish minimum performance requirements for each essential attribute. In addition to the technical standards, OLES also produces technical reports and user guidelines that explain in nontechnical terms the capabilities of available equipment.

The *National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center* (NLECTC), operated by a grantee, coordinates a national compliance testing program conducted by independent laboratories. The standards developed by OLES serve as performance benchmarks against which commercial equipment is measured.

Publications are available at no charge through NLECTC. Some documents are also available online at <http://www.justnet.org>. To request a document or additional information, call 800-248-2742 or 301-519-5060, or write:

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