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We are actively seeking ideas to help us identify technology needs and requirements as part

of the National Institute of Justice's Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation process. The process takes this input from law enforcement and corrections practitioners and uses it to make recommendations on prioritizing NIJ's investments across technology portfolios.

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**NIJ** The Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is a research and development agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NLECTC is a program of NIJ's Office of Science and Technology.

## COMMENTS NEEDED!

### NIJ Duty Holster Standard for Law Enforcement

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking comments on two draft documents for duty holsters used by the law enforcement community. The documents are entitled: (1) "NIJ Duty Holster Standard for Law Enforcement" and (2) "NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements."

The opportunity to provide comments on these documents is open to industry technical representatives; criminal justice agencies and organizations; research, development and scientific communities; and all other stakeholders and interested parties. These comments will be considered as the documents are further developed.

*Please note that all comments received are considered part of the public record and may be made available for public inspection online. Such information includes personal identifying information (such as name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter.*

*If you wish to submit personal identifying information (such as your name, address, etc.) as part of your comment, but do not wish for it to be posted online, you must include the phrase "PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION" in the first paragraph of your comment. You also must locate all the personal identifying information you do not wish to be posted online in the first paragraph of your comment and*

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*If a comment has so much confidential business information that it cannot be effectively redacted, all or part of that comment may not be posted online.*

*Personal identifying information and confidential business information identified and located as set forth above will be placed in the agency's public docket file (which will be made available for public inspection upon request), but not posted online.*

- [Download a copy of the draft NIJ Duty Holster Standard.](#)
- [Download a copy of the draft NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements.](#)

The comment period will be open for 45 days beginning on April 26, 2010.

In order to submit your comments, please download the [Duty Holster Public Comment sheet](#) and fill in all required fields. When you have completed your comments, save the file and then submit the file to [asknlectc@nlectc.org](mailto:asknlectc@nlectc.org). For further information, contact Vanessa Castellanos by telephone at 202-514-5272 or by e-mail at [vanessa.castellanos@usdoj.gov](mailto:vanessa.castellanos@usdoj.gov).



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# National Institute of Justice

**Law Enforcement and Corrections Standards and Testing Program**

## **NIJ Duty Holster Standard for Law Enforcement**

**NIJ Standard – XXXX.XX**

April 2010

## **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 [www.justnet.org](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@nlectc.org](mailto:asknlectc@nlectc.org).

Users of NIJ standards are advised to check with [www.justnet.org](http://www.justnet.org) 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.

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

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## **NIJ Duty Holster Standard for Law Enforcement**

**NIJ Standard – XXXX.XX**

Prepared for:  
National Institute of Justice  
Office of Science and Technology  
Washington, DC 20531

April 2010

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

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The preparation of this standard was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice.

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 standard 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 (Table to be completed prior to publication)**

Type	Name	Organization	Professional Affiliation
Local, State, or Federal			

**Table 2. Technical Experts (Table to be completed prior to publication)**

Type	Name	Organization	Expertise
Federal or private			

### **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. Members and their organizations are listed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. AWG Members (Table to be completed prior to publication)**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>

### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee generally 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.

**Table 4. Steering Committee Members**

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

## Foreword

This document is a voluntary performance standard for duty holsters for use by law enforcement. It defines both performance requirements and the methods used to test performance. In order for a manufacturer to claim that a particular holster model satisfies this NIJ standard, the model must be found to comply with this standard as determined in accordance with this document and the associated document *NIJ Law Enforcement Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements*. Both this standard and the associated certification program requirements document are produced as a part of the Standards and Testing Program of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), as is a third associated document, the *NIJ Law Enforcement Duty Holster Selection and Application Guide*.

All requirements stated in this standard, including those that explicitly employ mandatory language (*e.g.*, “shall”) are those necessary to satisfy the standard. Nothing in this document is intended to require or imply that commercially-available duty holsters for use by law enforcement must satisfy this standard.

This document is a performance and testing standard and, therefore, provides precise and detailed test methods.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, PREFIXES, AND CONVERSIONS**

### **Standard Specific Abbreviations**

DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOJ	Department of Justice
NIJ	National Institute of Justice
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NLECTC	National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center
OLES	Office of Law Enforcement Standards

### Commonly Used Symbols and Abbreviations

A	ampere	H	henry	nm	nanometer
ac	alternating current	h	hour	No.	number
AM	amplitude modulation	hf	high frequency	o.d.	outside diameter
cd	candela	Hz	hertz	$\Omega$	ohm
cm	centimeter	i.d.	inside diameter	p.	page
CP	chemically pure	in	inch	Pa	pascal
c/s	cycle per second	IR	infrared	pe	probable error
d	day	J	joule	pp.	pages
dB	decibel	L	lambert	ppm	parts per million
dc	direct current	L	liter	qt	quart
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	degree Celsius	Lb	pound	rad	radian
$^{\circ}\text{F}$	degree Fahrenheit	lbf	pound force	rf	radio frequency
diam	diameter	lbf-in	pound force inch	RH	relative humidity
emf	electromotive force	lm	lumen	s	second
eq	equation	ln	logarithm (base e)	SD	standard deviation
F	farad	log	logarithm (base 10)	sec.	section
fc	footcandle	M	molar	SWR	standing wave ratio
fig.	figure	m	meter	uhf	ultrahigh frequency
FM	frequency modulation	min.	minute	UV	ultraviolet
ft	foot	mm	millimeter	V	volt
ft/s	foot per second	mph	miles per hour	vhf	very high frequency
g	acceleration	m/s	meter per second	W	watt
g	gram	N	newton	$\lambda$	wavelength
gr	grain	N·m	newton meter	wt	weight

area = unit<sup>2</sup> (e.g., ft<sup>2</sup>, in<sup>2</sup>, etc.); volume = unit<sup>3</sup> (e.g., ft<sup>3</sup>, m<sup>3</sup>, etc.)

### Prefixes

d	deci (10 <sup>-1</sup> )	da	deka (10)
c	centi (10 <sup>-2</sup> )	h	hecto (10 <sup>2</sup> )
m	milli (10 <sup>-3</sup> )	k	kilo (10 <sup>3</sup> )
$\mu$	Micro (10 <sup>-6</sup> )	M	mega (10 <sup>6</sup> )
n	nano (10 <sup>-9</sup> )	G	giga (10 <sup>9</sup> )
p	pico (10 <sup>-12</sup> )	T	tera (10 <sup>12</sup> )

### Common Conversions

0.30480 m = 1 ft	4.448222 N = 1 lbf
2.54 cm = 1 in	1.355818 J = 1 ft·lbf
0.4535924 kg = 1 lb	0.1129848 N·m = 1 lbf·in
0.06479891 g = 1 gr	14.59390 N/m = 1 lbf/ft
0.9463529 L = 1 qt	6894.757 Pa = 1 lbf/in <sup>2</sup>
3600000 J = 1 kW·h	1.609344 km/h = 1 mph

## **1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, AND APPLICATION**

### **1.1 Scope**

- 1.1.1** This document is a voluntary standard. All requirements stated in this standard, including those that explicitly employ mandatory language (e.g., “shall”) are those necessary to satisfy the standard. Nothing in this document is intended to require or imply that commercially-available duty holsters for use by law enforcement must satisfy this standard. In order for a manufacturer to claim that a particular duty holster model satisfies this NIJ standard, however, the model must be found to comply with this standard as determined in accordance with this document and the associated document *NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements*.
- 1.1.2** This standard specifies the minimum requirements for form and fit, performance, testing, documentation, certification, and labeling of duty holsters designed to provide law enforcement personnel with the ability to securely carry, easily deploy, and re-secure their duty handgun.
- 1.1.3** This standard specifies requirements for new, unworn, law enforcement duty holsters.
- 1.1.4** This standard does not apply to specialized holsters such as thigh mounted, tactical, or concealment type holsters.
- 1.1.5** This standard does not include performance criteria for duty belts to which the duty holster will be attached.
- 1.1.6** This standard does not claim to address all the safety concerns related to the use of law enforcement duty holsters.
- 1.1.7** The duty holster manufacturer shall not claim compliance with only selected portions of this *NIJ Duty Holster Standard for Law Enforcement*. The duty holster shall meet all applicable stated requirements.
- 1.1.8** For models that employ materials or forms of construction that were not anticipated when this standard was developed or are not addressed by this standard, or that impair the level of safety intended by the requirements of this standard, NIJ may modify the test methods of the standard to take those features into account.
- 1.1.9** The manufacturer may exceed the requirements of this standard.

### **1.2 Purpose**

- 1.2.1** The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum retention requirements for duty holsters for law enforcement personnel who may come in contact with subjects who attempt to remove an officer’s duty handgun from its

holster. These minimum retention requirements shall not inhibit law enforcement personnel's accessibility to the duty handgun.

- 1.2.2** The test methods in this standard shall not be deemed as establishing performance requirements for all situations and hazards to which a law enforcement duty holster can be exposed.
- 1.2.3** The test methods used in this standard are intended to provide some indication of the duty holster's ability to maintain retention performance under a variety of conditions but will not predict the service life of the duty holster.
- 1.3 Application**
  - 1.3.1** This standard shall apply to law enforcement duty holsters designed with manual and/or automatic retention devices.
  - 1.3.2** The requirements for a law enforcement duty holster shall apply to holsters designed to provide limited retention factors from the threat of a handgun take-away.

## **2. REFERENCES**

The following references form a basis for and provide support for the requirements and procedures described in this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document applies, including any amendments.

### **2.1 ASTM Publications**

ASTM B 117, *Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus*. 2007a. West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: American Society for Testing and Materials.

ASTM F 1446 – 08, *Standard Test Methods for Equipment and Procedures Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear* – Figure 5  
West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: American Society for Testing and Materials.

ASTM D 570 – 98 (Reapproved 2005), *Standard Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics*. – Paragraph 7.1  
West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: American Society for Testing and Materials

### **2.2 NIJ Publications**

NIJ CR-XXXX.XX, *NIJ Law Enforcement Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

NIJ Guide-XXXX.XX, *NIJ Law Enforcement Duty Holster Selection and Application Guide*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

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### 3. DEFINITIONS

#### 3.1 General

The standard-specific definitions in this chapter apply to the terms as used in this standard. Terms that are not specifically defined shall be used according to their generally accepted meaning, unless the context unmistakably indicates otherwise.

#### 3.2 Definitions

**3.2.1 Accessory:** Any manufacturer-recommended or aftermarket item or items that can be attached to the duty holster but that are not necessary for meeting the requirements of this standard.

**3.2.2 Assembly:** The portion of the manufacturing process including, but not limited to, sewing, gluing, laminating, tacking, or other means of attaching whereby materials or components are put together to form a portion of or the whole product.

**3.2.3 Basic Functionality:** As originally designed by the manufacturer, the ability to draw a handgun from a holster after disengagement of retention devices and reseat the handgun in the holster such that all retention devices can be engaged.

**3.2.4 Care:** Methods used for cleaning, decontamination, maintenance and storage of duty holsters.

**3.2.5 Compliant:** The condition of a model meeting or exceeding all applicable requirements of this standard.

**3.2.6 Component:** Any material, part or subassembly used in construction of the duty holster.

**3.2.7 Decontamination:** The process of removing chemical/biological hazards from all of the surfaces of the duty holster.

**3.2.8 Directional Force:** One of six directions (see Figure 1 and Figure 2) a holstered inert handgun and/or a holster will have force applied to in order to test the holster retention strength.

**3.2.9 Draw Pull Direction:** A pull in line with the barrel centerline.

**3.2.10 Duty Belt:** A belt worn around the waist by law enforcement personnel to which essential equipment is attached.

- 3.2.11 Duty Handgun:** The weapon worn by a uniformed law enforcement officer/corrections officer required for use in the performance of the officer's responsibilities.
- 3.2.12 Duty Holster:** A holster worn by a uniformed law enforcement/corrections officer, attached to a duty belt for the purposes of carrying an officer's duty handgun. The holster includes the duty belt attachment mechanism and all manufacturer-authorized accessories to adapt the fit to body types.
- 3.2.13 Ejection Port:** The opening in the slide portion of a semi-automatic or automatic firearm through which the empty shell cases are ejected.
- 3.2.14 Friction:** Resistance created by the contact of multiple surfaces of the duty handgun against the interior surface of the duty holster. Friction is a contributing factor in handgun retention, but is not considered a retention device.
- 3.2.15 Functionality Test:** Method for demonstrating that a handgun can be placed into the duty holster with retention devices properly engaged. If the holster has multiple retention devices, they shall be engaged one at a time when possible, to verify individual proper function. Duty holster retention devices can be physically disengaged per the manufacturer's original intended method to allow withdrawal of the handgun.
- 3.2.16 Inert Handgun:** A manufactured handgun made safe by mechanically disabling its ability to fire a round without changing the external dimensions.
- 3.2.17 Law Enforcement Specific Equipment:** Equipment required for law enforcement personnel in performing their missions, including, but not limited to, handguns, restraining devices, communications equipment, and personal protective equipment such as body armor and ballistic helmets.
- 3.2.18 Load:** The force applied to a test specimen, typically in pounds-force (lbf).
- 3.2.19 Maintenance:** Cleaning, inspection, and manufacture authorized repairs/adjustments.
- 3.2.20 Manipulations:** A series of actions a law enforcement officer must take to remove a duty handgun from a duty holster as designed by the manufacture.
- 3.2.21 Manufacturer:** The entity that directs and controls design, production and/or quality assurance for a product or the entity that assumes liability for or provides the warranty for a product.

- 3.2.22 Model:** The design of a particular product with unique specifications and characteristics.
- 3.2.23 Model Number:** A specific identifier given to a unique configuration of a duty holster. Any variance to a model, such as right hand/left hand; high rise, mid rise, or low rise; including accessories used to alter how the holster is worn on the body; requires a different model number.
- 3.2.24 Modification:** Any alteration, substitution of part or element and/or adjustment.
- 3.2.25 Nomenclature:** Names given to different parts of a duty handgun and duty holster.
- 3.2.26 Product:** One unit of a particular model.
- 3.2.27 Product Label:** A marking affixed by a manufacturer to each product or its package which meets the requirements of this document.
- 3.2.28 Removal Force:** Load necessary to remove the duty handgun from the holster.
- 3.2.29 Retention:** The ability of a holster to secure a duty handgun, as designed, until such time as the user removes the handgun.
- 3.2.30 Retention Devices:** Mechanisms built into or onto a holster for the purposes of securing the duty handgun in the holster. Retention devices could include, but not be limited to, snaps, straps, levers, screws, or clamps. For the purposes of this document, friction is not considered a retention device.
- 3.2.30.1 Automatic Retention Devices:** Retention devices that are engaged by the act of placing the handgun in a holster and that require manual disengagement.
- 3.2.30.2 Manual Retention Devices:** Retention devices that must be engaged manually and that require manual disengagement.
- 3.2.31 Sample/specimen:** A duty holster, item, component or composite that is conditioned for subsequent testing. A sample is representative of a model.
- 3.2.32 Serviceability:** Condition in which the holster is able to be utilized as intended by the manufacturer.
- 3.2.33 Shall:** Indicates a mandatory requirement for the purposes of this voluntary standard.

- 3.2.34 Shooting Grip:** Proper placement of the hand on the handgrip of the handgun allowing the web between the thumb and forefinger to be high on the tang of the handgun, trigger finger indexed alongside the frame of the handgun and the remaining fingers and thumb wrapping around the handgrip of the handgun.
- 3.2.35 Standard:** A document containing form and fit requirements, minimum performance requirements, and test methods. The test methods are used to verify that the equipment being tested meets minimum performance requirements.
- 3.2.36 Tang:** The rear-curved top part of the back-strap of the grip.
- 3.2.37 Trigger Guard:** Portion of the duty handgun frame that surrounds the handgun's trigger.
- 3.2.38 Unused:** Factory new; not having been used in any way as a demo, example, sample, replacement or accepted as a return by the manufacturer, its agents or its resellers, nor placed into service by a law enforcement officer.

#### **4. FORM AND FIT REQUIREMENTS**

##### **4.1 Duty Holster Requirements**

- 4.1.1** Duty holsters shall meet or exceed the applicable requirements specified in this section.
- 4.1.2** Duty holsters may be designed with manual and/or automatic retention devices.
- 4.1.3** Duty holsters shall allow for both right and left hand handgun removal.
- 4.1.4** Duty holsters shall be designed so that retention devices can be released while establishing a proper shooting grip.
- 4.1.5** Duty holsters may be designed with adjustable features. The holster shall be compliant with the standard over the full range of adjustments. Manufacturers who design holsters with adjustable features shall provide the range of adjustments and supply separate samples to be tested at the extremes of the range of adjustments.
- 4.1.6** Duty holsters may be designed with the ability to add or remove components/accessories. Any combination of components and accessories intended to be compliant must be tested. The holster shall be compliant with the standard over the full range of intended configurations. Manufacturers who design holsters with components/accessories shall provide description of all intended configurations and supply separate samples to be tested at all intended configurations.

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## **5. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 Acceptance Criteria**

**5.1.1** To achieve conformity with this standard, the holster shall meet all applicable performance requirements defined in this section.

#### **5.1.2 High Temperature Strength and Functionality**

**5.1.2.1** Holsters shall be tested for strength during exposure to high temperature and perform functionality test after exposure to high temperature as specified in Section 6.2, and:

- (1) Shall allow the handgun to be seated in the holster such that each retention device can be individually engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer,
- (2) Shall retain the handgun when subjected to the specified force in each of the six different pulling directions,
- (3) Following strength testing, the holster shall allow the retention devices to be disengaged and the handgun to be drawn from the holster, and shall allow the handgun to be re-seated such that all retention devices can be engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer.

#### **5.1.3 Low Temperature Impact and Functionality**

**5.1.3.1** Holsters shall be tested for impact during exposure to low temperature and perform functionality test after exposure to low temperature as specified in Section 6.3, and:

- (1) Shall allow the handgun to be seated in the holster such that each retention device can be individually engaged if possible as originally designed by the manufacturer,
- (2) Shall retain the handgun when subjected to the specified impact in each of the six different impact directions,
- (3) Following impact testing, the holster shall allow the retention devices to be disengaged and the handgun to be drawn from the holster, and shall allow the handgun to be re-seated such that all retention devices can be engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer.

#### **5.1.4 Salt Spray Functionality**

**5.1.4.1** Holsters shall be tested for functionality after exposure to salt spray as specified in Section 6.4, and:

- (1) Shall allow the handgun to be seated in the holster such that each retention device can be individually engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer,

- (2) Shall allow the retention devices to be disengaged and the handgun to be drawn from the holster as originally designed by the manufacturer.

**5.1.5** Sand Exposure Functionality

**5.1.5.1** Holsters shall be tested for functionality after exposure to sand as specified in Section 6.5, and:

- (1) Shall allow the handgun to be seated in the holster such that each retention device can be individually engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer,
- (2) Shall allow the retention devices to be disengaged and the handgun to be drawn from the holster as originally designed by the manufacturer.

**5.1.6** Fresh Water Immersion Strength and Functionality

**5.1.6.1** Holsters shall be tested for functionality and strength after exposure to fresh water immersion as specified in Section 6.6, and:

- (1) Shall allow the handgun to be seated in the holster such that each retention device can be individually engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer,
- (2) Shall retain the handgun when subjected to the specified force in each of the six different pulling directions,
- (3) Following strength testing, the holster shall allow the retention devices to be disengaged and the handgun to be drawn from the holster, and shall allow the handgun to be re-seated such that all retention devices can be engaged as originally designed by the manufacturer.

## **6. TEST METHODS**

### **6.1 General Test Requirements**

- 6.1.1** Acceptance (pass/fail) criteria shall be as stated in Chapter 5, *Performance Requirements*. Test method information shall not be construed or interpreted as a performance requirement.
- 6.1.2** Each test shall be performed on new untested samples representative of the production model, except when specified in a test sequence.
- 6.1.3** All test data shall be recorded and reported.
- 6.1.4** Unless a performance requirement is specifically stated in terms of an average result, if any individual sample does not meet the performance requirement, the result shall be a failure.
- 6.1.5** In order to declare conformity for a model, all applicable tests specified for each type of duty holster shall be successfully completed, and every sample shall meet the requirements of Chapter 5.

### **6.2 High Temperature Strength and Functionality Test**

#### **6.2.1 Application**

- 6.2.1.1** This test shall apply to each model of holster.
- 6.2.1.2** Left and right holsters shall be tested independently unless the designs are symmetrical (mirror images using same construction and materials).

#### **6.2.2 Samples**

- 6.2.2.1** One sample holster shall be subjected to this test. The sample holster shall be in new, unused condition. The same sample shall be subjected to the entire sequence of this test.

#### **6.2.3 Apparatus**

- 6.2.3.1** A conditioning chamber or oven shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of 180°F, +5°/-0°F, and 120°F, +5°/-0°F. The chamber or oven shall be of size large enough such that the sample when suspended in the oven is greater than 6 in. from any chamber or oven surface. The temperature shall be measured using a calibrated device.

**6.2.3.2** A model specific, inert handgun for which the holster is specifically designed shall be used.<sup>A</sup>

**6.2.3.3** The Static Strength Fixture shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 shall be used.

**6.2.4 Procedure**

**6.2.4.1** If at any point the grip fixture interferes with or impedes the test set up for functionality of holstering and drawing the handgun, a second inert handgun without the fixture may be substituted.

**6.2.4.2** The inert handgun shall be inserted into the holster and all retention devices shall be engaged.

**6.2.4.3** The holster and inert handgun shall be suspended in the conditioning chamber or oven and exposed to a temperature of 180°F, +5°/-0°F for a period of not less than 4 hours and no more than 6 hours.

**6.2.4.4** The temperature of the conditioning chamber or oven shall then be lowered to 120°F, +5°/-0°F and allowed to stabilize for a period of not less than 30 minutes.

**6.2.4.5** The remainder of the procedure shall occur in an environment of 120°F, +5°/-0°F.

**6.2.4.6** The static strength grip fixture shall be attached to the inert handgun.

**6.2.4.7** A load of 300 lbf shall be applied to the inert handgun.

**6.2.4.7.1** Refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 for directions of loading.

**6.2.4.8** Repeat Section 6.2.4.7, two additional times for a total of 3 pulls in each pull direction.

**6.2.4.9** Repeat sections 6.2.4.7 through 6.2.4.8 for the remaining pull directions. A total of six pull directions are required.

**6.2.4.10** Following the final pull, perform the functionality test.<sup>A</sup>

**6.2.5 Report**

**6.2.5.1** The ability of the holster to retain the handgun at high temperature during each of the six strength test pull orientations shall be recorded and reported.

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<sup>A</sup> See Annex A for explanatory material.

**6.2.5.2** The results of the functionality test after strength testing shall be recorded and reported.

**6.2.5.3** Perform visual observation during and after the test. If any irregularities are observed, they shall be recorded and reported.

**6.2.5.4** At a point of any failure the test will be ended and details of the failure shall be recorded and reported.

## **6.2.6 Interpretation**

**6.2.6.1** Any failure of the handgun to be retained during the strength test or failure of the functionality test after strength testing shall constitute failure of this test.

**6.2.6.2** Holster fracture, tearing, cracking, or fastener failure, by themselves do not constitute a failure, unless the holster fails the strength or functionality test.

## **6.3 Low Temperature Impact and Functionality Test**

### **6.3.1 Application**

**6.3.1.1** This test shall apply to each model of holster.

**6.3.1.2** Left and right holsters shall be tested independently unless the designs are symmetrical (mirror images using same construction and materials).

### **6.3.2 Samples**

**6.3.2.1** One sample holster shall be subjected to this test. The sample holster shall be in new, unused condition. The same sample shall be subjected to the entire sequence of this test.

### **6.3.3 Apparatus**

**6.3.3.1** A Conditioning chamber capable of maintaining a temperature of -40°F, +0°/-5°F shall be used. The chamber shall be of size large enough such that the sample when suspended in the chamber is greater than 6 in. from any chamber surface. The temperature shall be measured using a calibrated device.

**6.3.3.2** A model specific, inert handgun for which the holster is specifically designed shall be used.<sup>A</sup>

**6.3.3.3** The Impact Test Fixture shown in Figure 3 shall be used.

### **6.3.4 Procedure**

- 6.3.4.1** If at any point the grip fixture interferes with or impedes the test set up for functionality of holstering and drawing the handgun, a second inert handgun without the fixture may be substituted.
- 6.3.4.2** For all holsters the inert handgun shall be inserted into the holster and all retention devices shall be engaged.
- 6.3.4.3** The holster and inert handgun shall be suspended in the conditioning chamber and exposed to a temperature of -40°F, +0°/-5°F for a period of not less than 4 hours and no more than 6 hours.
- 6.3.4.4** The remainder of the procedure shall occur in an environment of -40°F, +0°/-5°F.
- 6.3.4.5** The impact grip fixture shall be attached to the inert handgun.
- 6.3.4.6** An impact of 15.3 Joules shall be applied to the inert handgun by dropping a 10 lb weight from a height of 13.5 in.
- 6.3.4.7** Refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 for directions of impact.
- 6.3.4.8** Repeat Section 6.3.4.6, two additional times for a total of 3 impacts in each impact direction.
- 6.3.4.9** Repeat Sections 6.3.4.6 through 6.3.4.8 for the remaining impact orientations. A total of six impact orientations are required.
- 6.3.4.10** Following the final impact, perform the functionality test.<sup>A</sup>
- 6.3.5 Report**
- 6.3.5.1** The ability of the holster to retain the handgun at low temperature during each of the six impact orientations shall be recorded and reported.
- 6.3.5.2** The results of the functionality test after impact testing shall be recorded and reported.
- 6.3.5.3** Perform visual observation during and after the test. If any irregularities are observed, they shall be recorded and reported.
- 6.3.5.4** At a point of any failure the test will be ended and details of the failure shall be recorded and reported.
- 6.3.6 Interpretation**

**6.3.6.1** Any failure of the handgun to be retained during the impact test or failure of the functionality test after impact testing shall constitute failure of this test.

**6.3.6.2** Holster fracture, tearing, cracking, or fastener failure, by themselves do not constitute a failure, unless the holster fails the strength or functionality test.

#### **6.4 Salt Spray Functionality Test**

##### **6.4.1 Application**

**6.4.1.1** This test shall apply to each model of holster.

**6.4.1.2** Left and right holsters shall be tested independently unless the designs are symmetrical (mirror images using same construction and materials).

##### **6.4.2 Samples**

**6.4.2.1** One sample holster shall be subjected to this test. The sample holster shall be in new, unused condition. The same sample shall be subjected to the entire sequence of this test.

##### **6.4.3 Apparatus**

**6.4.3.1** A Salt spray apparatus as described in ASTM B117 shall be used.

**6.4.3.2** A model specific, inert handgun for which the holster is specifically designed shall be used.<sup>A</sup>

##### **6.4.4 Procedure**

**6.4.4.1** The empty holster shall be placed in the salt spray apparatus and exposed to conditions in accordance with ASTM B117 for a period of 24 hours with the following modifications:

**6.4.4.1.1** The holster shall be oriented in a normal carry position.

**6.4.4.2** At the completion of the 24-hour exposure, the holster shall be removed from the chamber and air-dried for 24 hours at a temperature of 72° ±3°F with a relative humidity of 50%.

**6.4.4.3** At the completion of the 24-hour drying cycle, perform the functionality test.<sup>A</sup>

##### **6.4.5 Report**

**6.4.5.1** The ability of the handgun to be holstered and the ability of each retention device to be engaged after salt spray exposure shall be recorded and reported.

**6.4.5.2** The ability of each retention device to be disengaged and the ability of the handgun to be removed from the holster after salt spray exposure shall be recorded and reported.

**6.4.6 Interpretation**

**6.4.6.1** Any failure of the holster during functionality test shall constitute failure of this test.

**6.5 Sand Exposure Functionality Test**

**6.5.1 Application**

**6.5.1.1** This test shall apply to each model of holster.

**6.5.1.2** Left and right holsters shall be tested independently unless the designs are symmetrical (mirror images using same construction and materials).

**6.5.2 Samples**

**6.5.2.1** The same sample holster used in Section 6.4 shall be subjected to this test. The sample shall be subjected to the entire sequence of this test without cleaning or modification from the previous test.

**6.5.3 Apparatus**

**6.5.3.1** 5-Gallon painter-style bucket with lid.

**6.5.3.2** Commercial-grade playground sand.

**6.5.3.3** Model specific, inert handgun for which the holster is specifically designed.<sup>A</sup>

**6.5.4 Procedure**

**6.5.4.1** For all holsters the inert handgun shall be inserted into the holster and all retention devices shall be engaged.

**6.5.4.2** The holster with the inert handgun shall be placed in the into a 5-gallon painter-style bucket. The bucket shall then be filled half-way with commercial-grade playground sand. The lid shall then be sealed onto the top of the bucket.

**6.5.4.3** The bucket shall be placed on its bottom and rotated (flipped) from bottom to lid and back 5 times with momentary pauses at each position to allow the sand to settle. At the completion of the sequence, the bucket shall be placed in an upright position and the lid shall be removed. The holster with the inert handgun shall be removed from the sand and the functionality test should be performed.<sup>A</sup>

**6.5.5 Report**

**6.5.5.1** The ability of each retention device to be disengaged and the ability of the handgun to be removed from the holster after sand exposure shall be recorded and reported.

**6.5.5.2** The ability of the handgun to be re-holstered and the ability of each retention device to be engaged after sand exposure shall be recorded and reported.

**6.5.6 Interpretation**

**6.5.6.1** Any failure of the holster during functionality test after sand exposure shall constitute failure of this test.

**6.6 Fresh Water Immersion Strength and Functionality Test**

**6.6.1 Application**

**6.6.1.1** This test shall apply to each model of holster.

**6.6.1.2** Left and right holsters shall be tested independently unless the designs are symmetrical (mirror images using same construction and materials).

**6.6.2 Samples**

**6.6.2.1** The same sample holster used in Section 6.4 and Section 6.5 shall be subjected to this test. The sample shall be subjected to the entire sequence of this test without cleaning or modification from the previous test.

**6.6.3 Apparatus**

**6.6.3.1** 5-Gallon container

**6.6.3.2** Type IV or deionized water

**6.6.3.3** A model specific, inert handgun for which the holster is specifically designed.<sup>A</sup>

**6.6.3.4** The Static Strength Fixture shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 shall be used.

**6.6.4 Procedure**

**6.6.4.1** For all holsters the inert handgun shall be inserted into the holster and all retention devices shall be engaged.

**6.6.4.2** The holster with the inert handgun shall be completely submerged into the 5-gallon container filled with Type IV or deionized water at room temperature ( $72^{\circ} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for a period of 4 hours.

**6.6.4.3** After the 4 hour exposure, the holster with the inert handgun shall be removed from the container. Retention devices shall be released and the handgun shall be drawn from the holster.<sup>A</sup>

**6.6.4.4** The handgun shall then be re-holstered and all retention devices shall be engaged.<sup>A</sup>

**6.6.4.5** Perform Section 6.2.4.6 to Section 6.2.4.10

**6.6.5 Report**

**6.6.5.1** The ability of the holster to retain the handgun after fresh water immersion for each of the six strength test pull orientations shall be recorded and reported.

**6.6.5.2** The results of the functionality test shall be recorded and reported.

**6.6.5.3** Perform visual observation during and after the test. If any irregularities are observed, they shall be recorded and reported.

**6.6.5.4** At a point of any failure the test will be ended and details of the failure shall be recorded and reported.

**6.6.6 Interpretation**

**6.6.6.1** Any failure of the handgun to be retained during the strength test or failure of the functionality test after strength testing shall constitute failure of this test.

**6.6.6.2** Holster fracture, tearing, cracking, or fastener failure, by themselves do not constitute a failure, unless the holster fails the strength or functionality test.

## **7. LABELING AND INFORMATION**

### **7.1 General Product Label Requirements**

- 7.1.1** Each holster shall have a product label permanently and visibly attached, stamped or printed.
- 7.1.2** Multiple label pieces shall be permitted in order to carry all statements and information required on the product label; however, all label pieces comprising the entire product label shall be located adjacent to each other.
- 7.1.3** All label text shall be at least in English.
- 7.1.4** Symbols and other graphical information shall be permitted to be used to supplement text on the product label(s) and shall be explained in the user information.
- 7.1.5** The certification organization's label, symbol, or identifying mark shall be legibly printed on the product label. All letters shall be at least 2.5 mm (3/32 in.) high.
- 7.1.6** The label shall include at least the following information. All letters shall be at least 2 mm (1/16 in.) high:
- (1) Manufacturer's name, identification, or designation
  - (2) Model, style, or serial number
  - (3) Lot number or designation
  - (4) Date of manufacture – not coded

### **7.2 User Information**

- 7.3.1** The manufacturer shall provide an information package with each individual holster.
- 7.3.2** The manufacturer shall package the user information with the holster in such a manner that its inclusion is readily apparent to the individual opening the package.
- 7.3.3** The user information package shall include at least the following:
- Instructions for proper use as intended by the manufacturer, including safety instructions.
  - Warranty information.
  - Proper care instructions, including maintenance, adjustment procedures, cleaning, inspection guidelines and frequency, recommended storage practices and repair methods where applicable.

- Point(s) of contact information for any complaints, inquiries and/or suggestions.

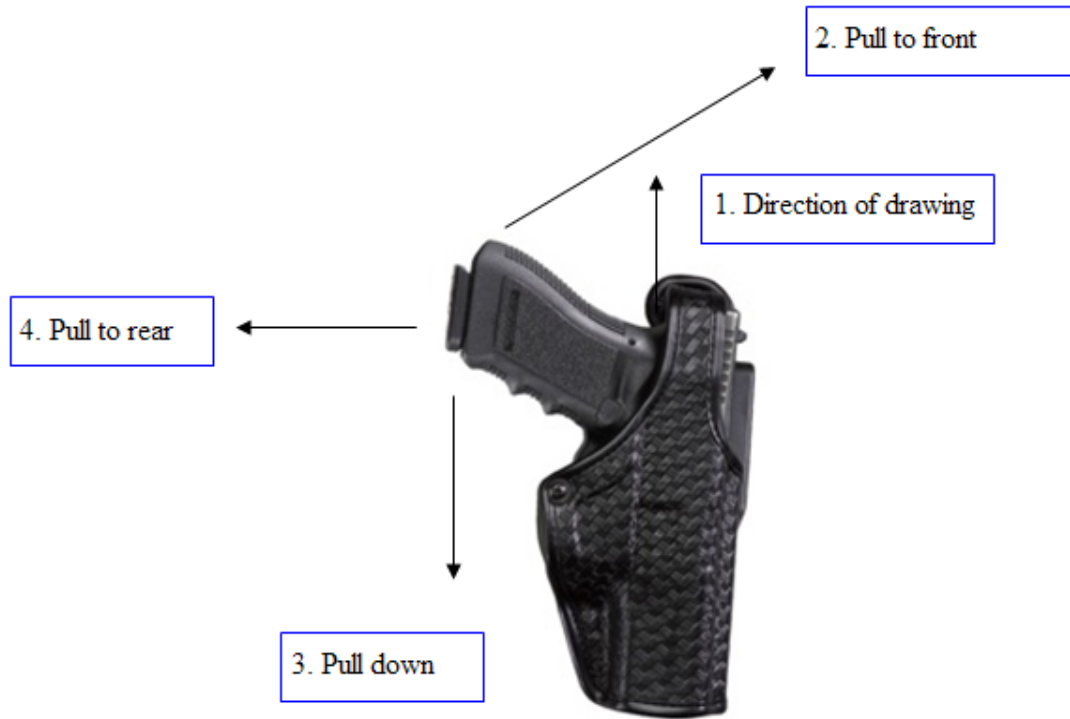
### **7.3 Technical Documentation**

- 7.4.1** The manufacturer shall have available technical documentation for the duty holster upon request.
- 7.4.2** The technical documentation shall include all information required by this standard and attestation of compliance with this standard.
- 7.4.3** The technical documentation shall include the manufacturer trade name, model number, available options, accessories and sizes.

## **ANNEX A: Explanatory Materials**

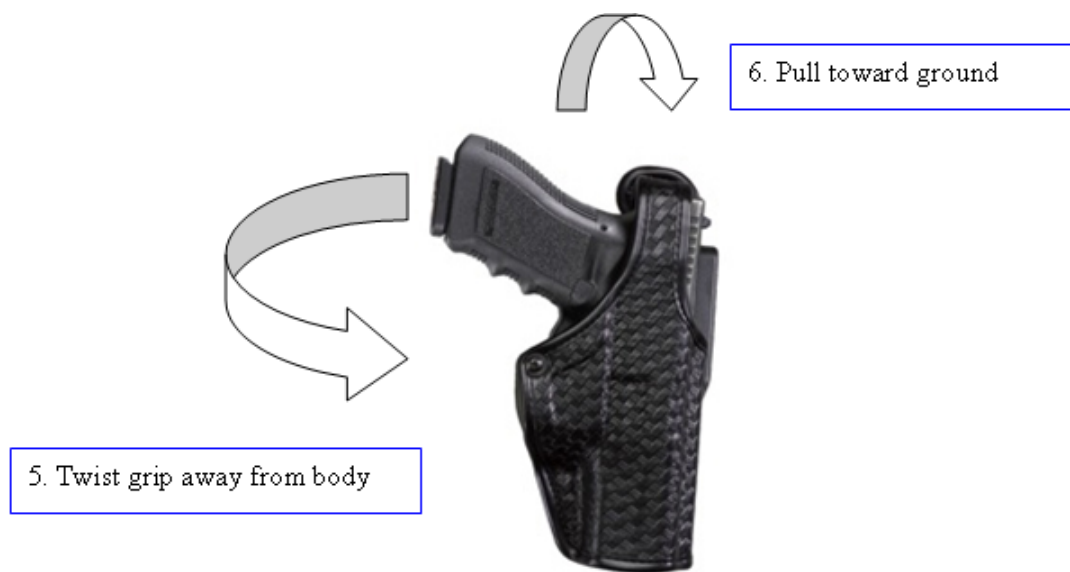
- A6.2.3.2** For example, a duty holster designed for a Glock 22 will be tested with an inert Glock 22 or an inert Glock with the exact dimensions as a Glock 22.
- A6.2.4.10** This is to ensure that the handgun can be successfully drawn and re-holstered after strength testing.
- A6.3.3.2** For example, a duty holster designed for a Glock 22 will be tested with an inert Glock 22 or an inert Glock with the exact dimensions as a Glock 22.
- A6.3.4.10** This is to ensure that the handgun can be successfully drawn and re-holstered after impact testing.
- A6.4.3.2** For example, a duty holster designed for a Glock 22 will be tested with an inert Glock 22 or an inert Glock with the exact dimensions as a Glock 22.
- A6.4.4.3** This is to ensure that the handgun can be successfully holstered and drawn after salt spray exposure.
- A6.5.3.3** For example, a duty holster designed for a Glock 22 will be tested with an inert Glock 22 or an inert Glock with the exact dimensions as a Glock 22.
- A6.5.4.3** This is to ensure that the handgun can be successfully drawn and re-holstered after sand exposure.
- A6.6.3.3** For example, a duty holster designed for a Glock 22 will be tested with an inert Glock 22 or an inert Glock with the exact dimensions as a Glock 22.
- A6.6.4.3** This is to ensure the weapon can be successfully drawn after salt spray exposure.
- A6.6.4.4** This is to ensure the weapon can be successfully re-holstered.

## APPENDIX: FIGURES



**(The above holster and pistol are for illustration purposes only and are not endorsed by the NIJ)**

Figure 1. Directions of Loading and Impact Testing



**(The above holster and pistol are for illustration purposes only and are not endorsed by the NIJ)**

Figure 2. Additional Directions of Loading and Impact Testing

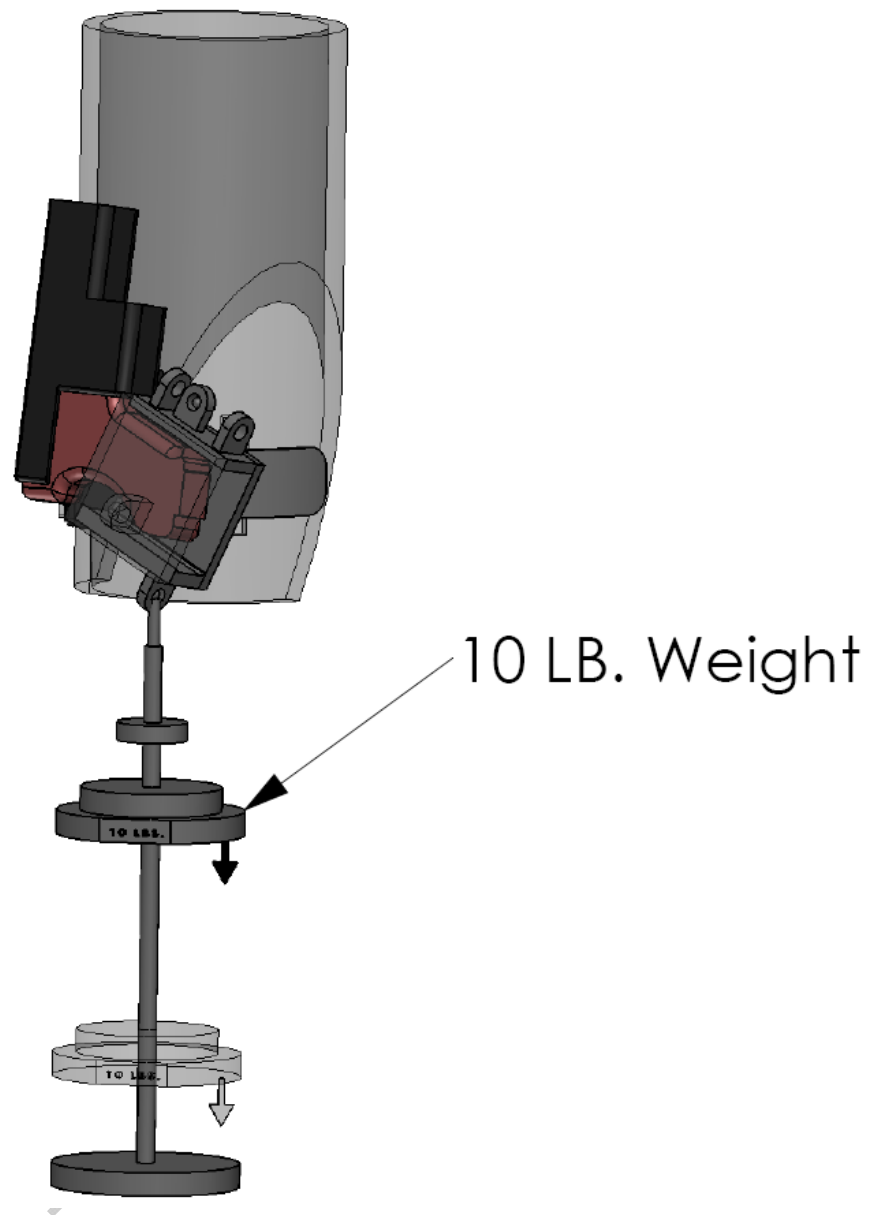


Figure 3. Impact Test Fixture

NIJ Duty Holster Retention Standard for Law Enforcement  
DRAFT

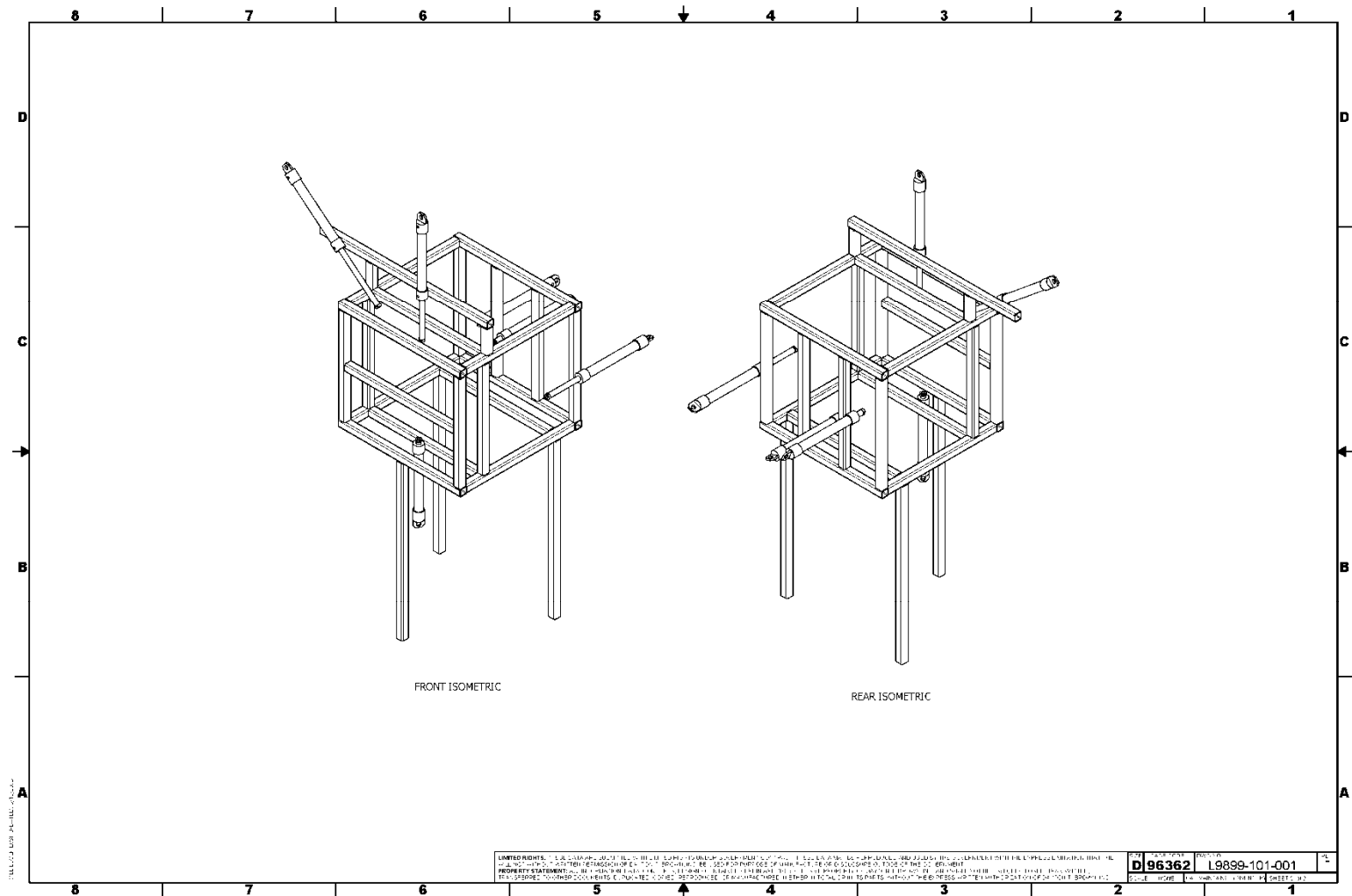
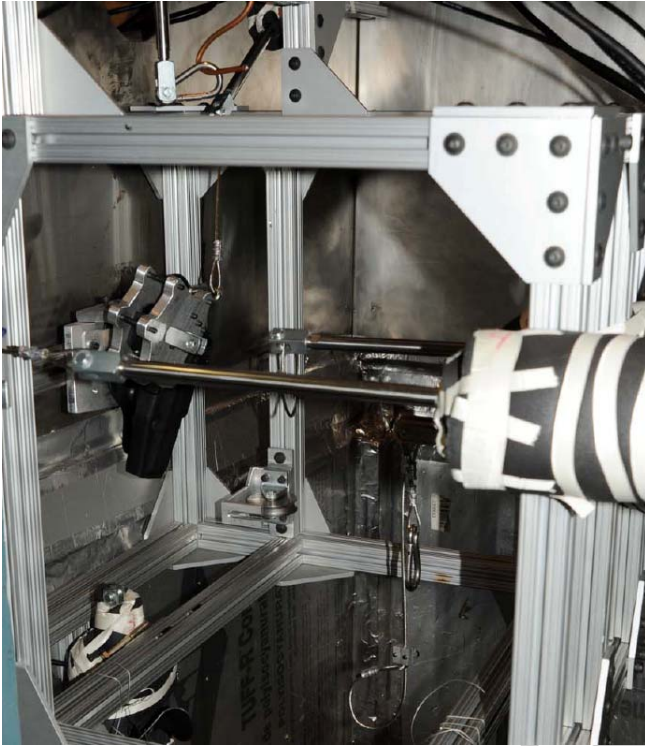
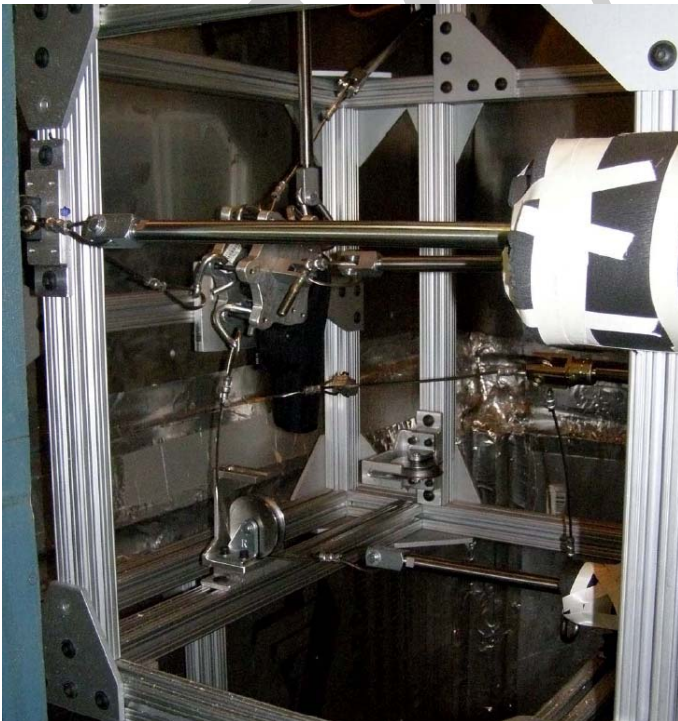


Figure 4. Static Strength Fixture

Figure 5. Examples of Static Strength Fixture



Example of Static Strength Fixture demonstrating the directions of loading and impact testing #1 (See Figure 1)



Example of Static Strength Fixture demonstrating all directions of loading and impact testing (See Figure 1 and Figure 2)



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# National Institute of Justice

**Law Enforcement and Corrections Standards and Testing Program**

**NIJ Duty Holster  
Certification Program Requirements  
NIJ CR-XXXX.00**

**April 2010**

## **ABOUT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS STANDARDS AND TESTING PROGRAM**

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards are voluntary standards, and there is no requirement or obligation to follow these voluntary standards. Having a standard provides the end user with performance information on key equipment characteristics, provides a level of confidence in a product's fitness for use, and allows comparison of products based on standardized testing methods and minimum performance requirements. These standards do not specify a particular solution but rather define what a potential solution must accomplish. The goal is to ensure to the degree possible that equipment is safe, reliable and performs according to established minimum requirements. These standards are an articulation of the criminal justice practitioner's operational needs and associated performance levels with regard to particular tools and technology. They reflect the practical experiences of the community in the field articulated in such a way as to enable testing in a valid and consistently replicable manner.

The NIJ Standards and Testing Program determines the needs of state and local criminal justice system practitioners for equipment standards and test protocols, sets minimum performance standards for specific equipment, establishes conformity assessment requirements for demonstrating that commercially available equipment conforms to those standards and publishes listings of products that are compliant with the standards. The standards process begins with the operational needs and requirements of practitioners in the field being defined, and based on those needs, the standards are developed by a Special Technical Committee of practitioners, researchers, testing and conformity assessment experts, federal partners and representatives from practitioner stakeholder organizations. Manufacturers, vendors and other interested parties are provided opportunity to review and comment on draft standards prior to publication.

The Standards and Testing Program is sponsored by the Office of Science and Technology within the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The program responds to the mandate of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which directed 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 (Public Law 104-113) 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 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.

Publications are available at no charge through the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) – National and are also available online at [www.justnet.org](http://www.justnet.org). To request a document or additional information, call (800) 248-2742 or (301) 519-5060 or send an email to [asknlectc@nlectc.org](mailto:asknlectc@nlectc.org).

# **NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements**

**NIJ CR-XXXX.00**

Prepared for:  
National Institute of Justice  
Office of Science and Technology  
Washington, DC 20531

April 2010

NCJ xxxxxx

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## FOREWORD

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), has developed the *NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements, CR-XXXX.00* which establishes the certification program requirements for duty holsters used by criminal justice personnel. It sets forth the duties and obligations of the parties involved and the necessary assessment and monitoring procedures required to demonstrate initial and continuing compliance with *NIJ Standard-XXXX.00, NIJ Duty Holster Standard*.

The *NIJ Duty Holster Standard, NIJ Standard-XXXX.00*, defines the minimum design and performance requirements for duty holsters used by criminal justice personnel and the test methods for assessing performance.

Those seeking guidance concerning the procurement, selection, care, maintenance, training and administrative considerations related to duty holsters should refer to the most recent revision of the *NIJ Selection and Application Guide to Duty Holsters, Guide-XXXX.00*, published as a separate document. This guide explains in nontechnical language how to select equipment that provides the level of performance required by the criminal justice organizations using this type of equipment.

NIJ standards and related documents are voluntary and subject to continued research, development, testing, review and revision. These documents and their successors will be re-evaluated and modified as necessary. Technical comments and suggested revisions are welcome. Please send all written comments and suggestions to Deputy Director, Office of Science and Technology, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 810 Seventh St. N.W., Washington, DC 20531.

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## **1. SCOPE, PURPOSE, APPLICATION, AND INTERPRETATIONS**

### **1.1 Scope**

- 1.1.1** This document establishes requirements for third-party certification of duty holsters to the specifications detailed in *NIJ Standard-XXXX.00, NIJ Duty Holster Standard* (hereinafter, *NIJ Standard-XXXX.00*).

### **1.2 Purpose**

- 1.2.1** This document addresses requirements for third-party certification organizations, including testing laboratories used in the certification process, to ensure minimum NIJ requirements are followed for certification of duty holsters.

### **1.3 Application**

- 1.3.1** This document applies to certification bodies that offer certification for duty holsters that meet the requirements of *NIJ Standard-XXXX.00*.
- 1.3.2** NIJ has agreements in place with recognized organizations to accredit product certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 65 and with the *NIJ Duty Holster Certification Program Requirements*. Accredited certification bodies shall meet and continue to meet the requirements of this program. Failure to meet the requirements may lead to suspension and withdrawal of accreditation of the certification body.
- 1.3.3** The requirements of this document are in addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65, which apply in their entirety. The requirements of this document add specificity to the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65.

### **1.4 Interpretations**

- 1.4.1** Requests for interpretations of *NIJ Standard-XXXX.00* and this document shall be made in writing, addressed to NIJ, and submitted via email to [asknlectc@nlectc.org](mailto:asknlectc@nlectc.org).

## **2. REFERENCED PUBLICATIONS**

The following publications are referenced in this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document applies, including any amendments.

### **2.1 ISO/IEC Publications**

- 2.1.1** ISO/IEC Guide 65. *General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems*.
- 2.1.2** ISO/IEC 17011. *General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*.

- 2.1.3 ISO/IEC 17000. *Conformity Assessment—Vocabulary and General Principles.*
- 2.1.4 ISO/IEC 17025. *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.*

## 2.2 NIJ Publications

- 2.2.1 NIJ Standard-XXXX.00, *NIJ Duty Holster Standard.*

## 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the definitions found in ISO/IEC Guide 65 and ISO/IEC 17000 apply as well as the additional definitions below.

- 3.1 **Certification Organization:** An independent, third-party organization that operates a certification program to validate a manufacturer's claim of conformity to one or more standards or specifications.
- 3.2 **Certified Product List:** A publicly accessible listing of products that have been certified to be compliant with all requirements of NIJ Standard-XXXX.00.
- 3.3 **Labeled:** The attachment to a product or its packaging of a label, symbol or other mark of conformity of a certification organization.
- 3.4 **Listed:** Inclusion in a publicly accessible list of certified products.
- 3.5 **Mark of conformity:** Legally registered certification mark.

## 4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The process of certifying products as being compliant with NIJ Standard-XXXX.00 and program requirements shall include meeting the requirements of this document.
- 4.2 Certification organizations shall be accredited to the requirements specified in this document and ISO/IEC Guide 65. Accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement for the scope of product certification.
- 4.3 The certification organization shall not issue certifications based on portions or segments of the requirements of NIJ Standard-XXXX.00.
- 4.4 NIJ reserves the right to introduce new requirements and revised requirements into the program and to set transition times for compliance with new and revised requirements.
- 4.5 The certification organization shall not authorize manufacturers or suppliers to use any label, certification mark or reference to the certification organization on duty holsters that

have not been certified per the requirements of this document.

- 4.6** The certification organization shall require the manufacturer to have a product recall system as specified in section 11 of this document.
- 4.7** For initial certification, the certification organization shall have testing performed at an independent, third-party laboratory.
- 4.8** On an annual basis, the certification organization shall audit manufacturer compliance with the applicable sections of this document to ensure that the manufacturer's quality management program provides continued product compliance to NIJ Standard-XXXX.00. It is not required that the audit be performed at the manufacturing facility.
- 4.9** The certification organization shall conduct specific testing as part of surveillance by selecting and evaluating samples from the manufacturer's production line or stock to verify the duty holsters continue to comply with certification program requirements.
- 4.10** The certification organization shall periodically evaluate certified duty holsters to confirm that they continue to conform to the standard. (ISO/IEC Guide 65, 13.4)
- 4.11** The certification organization shall maintain a publicly accessible, web-based listing of certified duty holsters.

## **5. TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1** Test laboratories used by the certification organization for testing of duty holsters shall be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The test laboratory's scope of accreditation shall include NIJ Standard-XXXX.00.

## **6. LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

- 6.1** Labeled duty holsters certified in accordance with NIJ Standard-XXXX.00 shall meet or exceed all applicable requirements specified in NIJ Standard-XXXX.00.
- 6.2** Packaging for certified duty holsters shall be marked with a mark of the certification organization.
- 6.3** Certified duty holsters shall be permanently marked with a mark of the certification organization.

## **7. SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1** The certification body shall have a surveillance program for duty holsters.

- 7.1.1** Surveillance shall include at a minimum testing every three years on a minimum of one sample for each test listed in Chapter 6 of NIJ Standard-XXXX.00.
- 7.1.2** The surveillance program shall retain one holster of each tested model that has not been tested or conditioned.
- 7.1.3** The surveillance program shall include an annual audit by the certification body. The audit shall include at a minimum a review of the manufacturers' quality management system as described.

## **8. MANUFACTURER'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

- 8.1** The certification organization shall verify that the manufacturer implements a quality assurance system which includes as a minimum the following:
  - a. Material traceability on any material components which could impact the end product's compliance with the requirements.
  - b. Document control system which tracks and identifies the most current revision of construction and design specifications.
  - c. Records of product complaints, investigations and actions taken.
  - d. Documented job responsibilities and authorities for approving changes to certified products.

## **9. CERTIFIED DUTY HOLSTERS DETERMINED TO BE NONCOMPLIANT AND/OR UNFIT FOR INTENDED PURPOSE**

- 9.1** When noncompliant product has been released to end users with indications that it is compliant, the certification organization shall notify NIJ giving at minimum product names, model numbers, serial numbers or lot numbers, production location, and the nature of the noncompliance.
- 9.2** Where noncompliance is conclusive and action is required, the certification organization, in coordination with NIJ, shall take one or more of the following actions:
  - (1) Notification of parties authorized and responsible for issuing a safety alert when, in the opinion of the certification organization, such an alert is necessary to protect users.
  - (2) Notification of parties authorized and responsible for issuing a product recall when, in the opinion of the certification organization, such a notification is necessary to inform users.
  - (3) Removal of the product from the certified product list or annotation of the certified product list entry, as appropriate, to explain the action.

(4) The certification organization shall provide a report to NIJ and to the organization or individual that reported the issue to inform them of the findings and action (if any).

**9.3** When a change(s) to NIJ Standard-XXXX.00 appears to be necessary to prevent recurrence of problems, the certification organization may propose such changes to NIJ.

## **10. MANUFACTURER INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AND PRODUCT RETURNS**

**10.1** The certification organization shall require the manufacturer to establish and maintain documented procedures for investigating written complaints and returned duty holsters and for documenting the results of the investigation.

**10.2** Manufacturer records of certified product returns and of complaints related to noncompliance or lack of fitness shall be retained for at least five years.

**10.3** When the manufacturer determines during the review of product returns or complaints that a certified product constitutes a safety risk to end users and is possibly subject to a safety alert or product recall, the manufacturer shall immediately contact the certification organization and provide information about its review to assist the certification organization with its investigation.

## **11. CERTIFIED PRODUCT RECALL**

**11.1** The manufacturer shall establish a documented product recall process to be used in the event that the manufacturer decides, or is directed by the certification organization, to issue a certified product recall. The manufacturer shall inform the certification body and NIJ of product recalls as soon as the decision to issue a recall has been made.

## **12. NIJ SAFETY NOTICES**

**12.1** NIJ shall establish and maintain a process for the issuance of "NIJ Safety Notices to Law Enforcement and Corrections Agencies" to address confirmed officer safety concerns. Manufacturers and certification bodies shall participate in this process.