

Byrne JAG

Bulletproof Vest Federal Requirements

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research



Body Armor Federal Requirements

If a JAG application for body armor (bulletproof vests) is awarded, the subrecipient will need to be in compliance with the following federal requirements.

Mandatory Wear Policy

A JAG award recipient that is awarded Byrne JAG award funds to purchase body armor must provide The Office of Grants and Research with a certification(s) to confirm that the law enforcement agency receiving body armor has a written “mandatory wear” policy in effect (see 34 U.S.C. § 10202(c)). The certification form related to mandatory wear can be found at: [JAG - Body Armor Mandatory Wear Policy Certification](#).

A mandatory wear concept and issues paper and a model policy are available from the BVP Customer Support Center, which can be contacted at vests@usdoj.gov or toll free at 1-877-758-3787. Additional information and FAQs related to the mandatory wear policy and certifications can be found in the JAG FAQs.

Vest Specifications

Body armor purchased with JAG funds may be purchased at any threat level, make, or model from any distributor or manufacturer, as long as the following requirements are met: The body armor must have been tested and found to comply with the latest applicable National Institute of Justice ballistic or stab standards (<https://cjtec.org/compliance-testing-program/compliant-product-lists/>). In addition, body armor purchased must be made in the United States.

Body armor purchased with JAG funds must be “uniquely fitted vests,” which means protective (ballistic or stab-resistant) armor vests that conform to the individual wearer to provide the best possible fit and coverage through a combination of (1) correctly sized panels and carrier determined through appropriate measurement and (2) properly adjusted straps, harnesses, fasteners, flaps, or other adjustable features. Note that the requirement that body armor be “uniquely fitted” does not necessarily require body armor that is individually manufactured based on the measurements of an individual wearer. In support of OJP’s efforts to improve officer safety, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International has made available the Standard Practice for Body Armor Wearer Measurement and Fitting of Armor (Active Standard ASTM E3003) at no cost. The Personal Armor Fit Assessment Checklist is excerpted from ASTM E3003.