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New Certification Program for Criminal Justice Restraints

McLean, Va., December 12, 2018 – The U.S. National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has transitioned certification of criminal justice restraints from an NIJ program to private sector organizations. The NIJ list of approved restraints is no longer available.

From this time forward, metallic and non-metallic wrist and ankle restraints will be tested in private-sector testing laboratories and will be certified by private-sector NIJ-Recognized Certification Bodies.

It is expected that certified restraints for criminal justice use will soon be available.

NIJ Standard 1001.00, *Criminal Justice Restraints*, specifies the minimum requirements for form and fit, performance, testing, documentation, and labeling of restraints intended to be used by criminal justice personnel. The NIJ standard may be found at:

<https://nij.gov/topics/technology/standards-testing/Pages/restraints.aspx>

Criminal justice agencies are encouraged to require their suppliers of restraints to get their products certified to NIJ Standard 1001.00, *Criminal Justice Restraints*, so that those certified products become available for purchase. NIJ suggests the following procurement language: “Restraints tested in accordance with NIJ Standard 1001.00 and certified by a certification body recognized by the National Institute of Justice.”

The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) is currently the only NIJ-Recognized Certification Program for criminal justice restraints.

Certification means that restraint models have been tested and found to meet the NIJ standard, and the facilities where they are manufactured have been audited and meet stringent quality assurance requirements. Certification also means that users of these restraints can have confidence that the restraints that they are using meet the requirements. In the event that a certified restraint fails due to non-conformance with the standard, the certification body can take action against the manufacturer.

NIJ published a Federal Register Notice on August 15, 2018 explaining the transition to private-sector certification of restraints to NIJ Standard-1001.00, *Criminal Justice Restraints*:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/15/2018-17467/recognizing-private-sector-certification-programs-for-criminal-justice-restraints>

For questions, contact Bill Fithian (bfithian@seinet.org).

The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI), an affiliate of ASTM International, helps our world work better by providing product and personnel certifications. Since 1981, SEI has served as the world’s premier certification organization for thousands of safety and protective products – from firefighter and baseball helmets to worker’s boots and police gear. SEI works with independent laboratories and quality auditors to administer certification programs for manufacturers seeking to be certified to technical standards. www.seinet.org