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ASTM INTERNATIONAL

July 5, 2018

TO: NIJ RESTRAINTS MANUFACTURERS: Transition to NIJ 1001 Restraints Standard

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) posted the attached announcement to their website on July 3, 2018. This posting provides an overview of the new NIJ 1001 Restraints Standard that includes a review of the conformity assessment requirements, guidance on how the new program will be managed, and a formal announcement regarding the removal of the Consumer Products List (CPL) for restraints certified to the old NIJ 0307.01 Standard effective December 31, 2018. Criminal justice purchasing agencies will not have access to the CPL after this date, and will be required to purchase restraints certified to the NIJ 1001 Standard.

Manufacturers are urged to submit samples and begin the certification process for their product(s) to the NIJ 1001 Standard. The appropriate documentation will need to be submitted directly to SEI, and we will provide guidance on the requirements of the certification program, along with instructions on where to send samples for initial certification testing to the NIJ 1001 Standard. We will contact you within the next few days to discuss your specific transition process, and review the test matrix that you previously received, which outlines the testing fees and samples required to complete initial testing to the NIJ 1001 Standard. Additionally, the following documents will need to be provided if you have not done so already:

1. Complete an SEI Manufacturers Agreement, sign two copies and send them to my attention.
2. Submit to SEI, a completed SEI Certification Submittal Form for each model/product line that includes the standard and a complete description of the model/product line you wish to certify.
3. We will work together to schedule and complete the required quality audit of your manufacturing location(s).
4. Arrangements will be made to ship the appropriate number of samples for each model/product line (as outlined in your SEI test matrix) to Intertek for testing.

Your assistance in following these procedures will assist SEI, Intertek and SEI Quality Auditors in ensuring an orderly transition to the new standard. The typical initial certification process will take 6-8 weeks to complete, assuming there are no significant issues that arise. We hope this information is helpful to you, and please feel free to call the SEI Office if you have any questions, or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

William A. Fithian
Technical Director
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Standards and Conformity Assessment for Criminal Justice Restraints

July 3, 2018

Restraints are critical pieces of equipment carried by law enforcement, corrections, and court officers. To help ensure that restraints meet minimal requirements, the National Institute of Justice published [NIJ Standard 1001.00, Criminal Justice Restraints \(pdf, 66 pages\)](#) in 2014.^[1]

Standard 1001.00 specifies the minimum requirements for form and fit, performance, testing, documentation, and labeling of restraints intended to be used by criminal justice personnel to restrain subjects. It categorizes restraints into four types based on the intended operational use.

[Learn more about the four types of restraints.](#)

Certifying Restraints to the Standard — A Public-Private Approach

NIJ maintained a conformance testing program for metallic handcuffs from the 1980s until 2016, when we discontinued the metallic handcuffs Conformity Testing Program and closed the program to new submissions.^[2]

Rather than continuing to operate its own program, NIJ determined that it could better meet the needs of the criminal justice community by publicly recognizing restraints certification programs in the private sector. To do so, though, NIJ needed to develop criteria by which it would recognize such programs.

NIJ sought public comment on proposed minimum requirements that a product certification “scheme” must contain for the certification of restraints described in NIJ Standard 1001.00.^[3] This would provide clear guidance on what NIJ suggests would be the minimum level of quality assurance needed to provide a high degree of confidence for the end user community.

The resulting document, [Minimum Scheme Requirements to Certify Criminal Justice Restraints Described in NIJ Standard 1001.00 \(pdf, 8 pages\)](#), was published in July 2017.^[4] It includes minimum reasonable expectations that a “certification body” (i.e., the organization providing third-party product certification) should meet in order to operate a certification program for restraints. It is also intended for “accreditation bodies” that accredit certification bodies which certify restraints, or may be considering doing so.

Restraints certification programs that meet or exceed the minimum requirements allow NIJ a basis by which to publicly recognize these external programs. (See [NIJ-Recognized Certification Programs](#) below.)

Some important points about the new approach:

- NIJ no longer certifies handcuffs to NIJ Standard 0307.01, nor has it ever certified restraints to NIJ Standard 1001.00.
- Restraints are certified by the NIJ-recognized private sector organizations. They are not certified by NIJ, and the products should not be referred to as “NIJ certified.”
- This process will not generate a list of NIJ-certified restraints. However, it does demonstrate to the criminal justice community that NIJ has confidence in the private-sector organization certifying the restraints and publishing lists of certified products.
- For agencies wishing to purchase or procure restraints certified to meet NIJ Standard 1001.00, NIJ suggests the following language:
 - “Restraints tested in accordance with NIJ Standard 1001.00 and certified by a certification body recognized by the National Institute of Justice.”
- In setting the minimum requirements for a certification scheme, NIJ is not the scheme owner. Instead, NIJ takes a curatorial oversight role by—

- Articulating the minimum requirements for a program to meet the quality assurance needs for end users of criminal restraints.
- Assessing programs based on those requirements.
- Recognizing programs, including lists of products conformant with NIJ Standard 1001.00, based on those assessments.

Restraints Certification Programs Recognized by NIJ

NIJ recognizes the following certification program for restraints as in compliance with Minimum Scheme Requirements to Certify Criminal Justice Restraints Described in NIJ Standard 1001.00:

Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.

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McLean, VA 22101

Telephone: (703) 442-5732

Fax: (703) 442-5756

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History of Compliance Testing of Restraints at NIJ

NIJ's compliance testing program for restraints began with a test report published in May 1982 after several [models were tested \(pdf, 23 pages\)](#) against the then-new NIJ Standard 0307.01. A second report^[5] followed in February 1986, which resulted in an updated "Consumer Product List" (CPL). Subsequent efforts evolved into the metallic handcuffs Compliance Testing Program, which was administered by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center. Models tested through the Compliance Testing Program that were found to comply with all the requirements of the standard were then listed on the metallic handcuffs CPL.

Manufacturers seeking NIJ recognition of compliance to NIJ Standard 0307.01 for their models of metallic handcuffs submitted a sample of the model to the Compliance Testing Program, where the user information, markings, and workmanship are inspected to ensure compliance with the NIJ standard. To meet the requirements of the standard, a sample of five handcuffs was tested at one of two NIJ-approved laboratories. For a model to fully comply with the standard, four of the five pairs of handcuffs had to meet all of the requirements.

The metallic handcuffs CPL has remained published while NIJ has been transitioning certification of restraints handcuffs from an NIJ-operated program to recognition of private-sector programs. {request} Criminal justice agencies may still request this CPL until December 31, 2018. Please send an email from an agency email address to Mark Greene at mark.greene2@usdoj.gov to request this information.

Notes

[note 1] Standard 1001.00 superseded the older [NIJ Standard 0307.01, NIJ Standard for Metallic Handcuffs \(pdf, 10 pages\)](#), published in 1982.

[note 2] See "[Discontinuing the Metallic Handcuffs Compliance Testing Program and Request for Public Comment on Draft Minimum Scheme Requirements to Certify Criminal Justice Restraints Described in NIJ Standard 1001.00](#)," Federal Register, 81 FR 63225, September 14, 2016.

[note 3] "[Minimum Scheme Requirements to Certify Criminal Justice Restraints Described in NIJ Standard 1001.00](#)," Federal Register, 82 FR 32379, July 13, 2017.

[note 4] A key aspect of operating a certification program is to maintain a “certification system,” typically done in accordance with ISO/IEC 17067, Conformity assessment — Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes. According to ISO/IEC 17067, a “certification system” is defined as rules, procedures, and management for carrying out certification, and a “certification scheme” is a certification system related to specified products, to which the same specified requirements, specific rules, and procedures apply. A “scheme owner” is a person or organization responsible for developing and maintaining a specific certification scheme. Typically, a certification scheme also has a certification mark associated with it, and the certification body that issues the mark is the scheme owner.

[note 5] *Metallic Handcuff Testing Report*, National Institute of Justice, Washington, D.C., February 1986.

Date Modified: July 3, 2018