



News Release

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**SEI Certifies Chemical & Biological Terrorism Ensembles
Used By Fire and Emergency Responders**

McLean, VA April 3, 2003. The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) is pleased to announce that the first SEI certifications for chemical biological terrorism suits have been issued to the following NFPA criteria: NFPA 1994, *Protective Ensembles for Chemical or Biological Terrorism Incidents, 2001 Edition*.

All independent testing for the SEI certification program of Chemical & Biological Protective Ensembles used in the fire and emergency services is conducted at SEI's contract testing laboratory, Intertek Testing Services (ITS), Cortland, NY.

NFPA 1994 is a standard which was released in August 2001 that sets performance requirements for protective clothing used at chemical and biological terrorism incidents. It is unique in that it defines three classes of ensembles based on the perceived threat at the emergency scene. Differences between the three classes are based on:

- The ability of the ensemble design to resist the inward leakage of chemical and biological contaminants.
- The resistance of the materials used in the construction of the ensembles to chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.
- The strength and durability of these materials.

All NFPA 1994 ensembles are designed for a single exposure (use). Ensembles must consist of garments, gloves, and footwear. The following table summarizes the use of these ensembles.

Class	Challenge	Skin Contact	Vapor Threat	Liquid Threat	Condition of Victims
1	Vapors Aerosols Pathogens	Not permitted	Unknown or not verified	High	Unconscious, not symptomatic and not ambulatory
2	Limited vapors Liquid splash Aerosols Pathogens	Not probable	IDLH	Moderate	Mostly alive, but not ambulatory
3	Liquid drops Pathogens	Not likely	STEL	Low to none	Self-ambulatory

SEI has issued certifications for the following models:

**NFPA 1994 2001 Edition -
Class 1 Ensembles**

*DuPont Personal
Protection*

Tychem® Responder
Front Entry, Level A Garment with Attached Gloves

Tychem® TK
Front Entry, Level A Garment with Attached Gloves

Tychem® TK
Rear Entry, Level A Garment with Attached Gloves

Class 3 Ensembles

*DuPont Personal
Protection*

Tychem® CPF3
Coverall with Short Overhood and Boots 3T463

Tychem® CPF3
Coverall with Long Overhood and Boots 3T464

In addition to initial compliance testing of all protective clothing at an independent laboratory, manufacturers who participate in the SEI certification program must pass a rigorous quality assurance audit of their manufacturing facility and operate in accordance with ISO 9001. Also, all products carrying the SEI label are required to be re-certified annually. Therefore, all products must be re-tested annually at Intertek, and the manufacturing facility must continue to successfully meet all SEI quality assurance requirements during follow-up audits.

“As a non-profit organization, SEI is committed to making sure emergency responders have confidence in the products they rely on for protection from hazards”, stated Patricia A. Gleason, SEI President. SEI’s sole purpose for existence is to assure that products have been manufactured to specifications and should perform at expected levels.

Information about SEI’s certification program and the most current version of the SEI **Certified Product List**, can be accessed on SEI’s web site, www.SEInet.org, by anyone, anywhere in the world at any time of the day. The **Certified Product List** provides product model names and numbers, manufacturer’s names, addresses, and contact numbers. A copy of the SEI **Certified Product List** may also be obtained free of charge by writing to SEI, 1307 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 3A, McLean, VA 22101. Requests may also be sent by fax: 703/442-5756 or by e-mail at: info@SEInet.org.

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Certified Model – NFPA 1994 – 2001 edition