

SEI certifies thermal imagers to new NFPA criteria used by the emergency responders

The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) is pleased to announce that the first certifications have been issued to the new NFPA criteria for fire service Thermal imagers, NFPA 1801, Standard on Thermal imagers for the Fire Service, 2013 Edition. The revised NFPA 1801 standard was issued by the NFPA Standards Council on May 29, 2012, with an effective date of June 18, 2012.

The 2013 edition of the standard includes design and performance requirements covering various modes of operation (TI Basic and TI Basic Plus) and image quality. Required testing includes Image Recognition Test, Vibration Test, Impact Acceleration Resistance Test, Corrosion Test, Viewing Surface Abrasion Test, Heat Resistance Test, Heat and Flame Test, Product Label Durability Test, Cable Pullout Test, Effective Temperature Range Test, Field of View measurement, Thermal Sensitivity Test, and Durability Test.

The independent testing of Thermal Imaging Cameras used in the fire and emergency services was conducted at SEI's contract testing laboratory, Intertek Testing Services, located in Cortland, NY. The staff at SEI and Intertek closely monitored the progress of the new standard through participation on the Technical Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment of the NFPA, and are well-equipped for testing to the new standard.

In addition to initial compliance testing of all Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) models, 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. This means that all products must be re-tested annually, and the manufacturing facility must continue to successfully meet all SEI quality assurance requirements during follow-up audits.

SEI has issued certifications to the 2013 edition of NFPA 1801 for the following models:

Manufacturer	Model Name & Number
Bullard	Bullard, T4N
Draeger	Dräger UCF 9000, TIC 011
ISG Infrasy	ISG Infrasy, E380

Additional certifications are expected to be issued by the end of this year.

“As a non-profit organization, we are committed to making sure emergency responders have confidence in the safety products they rely on for protection”, 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. SEI-certified TIC's that meet the new criteria are now available as an option for emergency responders.

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 bulk of the SEI home page includes the **SEI Certified Product List** which provides certified product model names and numbers, manufacturer's names, addresses, and contact numbers. ■

