



Development of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Standard

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Science and Technology (DHS - OST) through the National Institute of Standards and Technology - Office of Law Enforcement Standards (NIST - OLES), to develop a standard for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Program Introduction:

Civilian and military EOD technicians wear PPE while conducting reconnaissance, render safe, or disruption procedures on potential or confirmed explosive threats. These suits must provide a tremendous degree of protection from fragmentation, blast overpressure, thermal, and tertiary effects should the threat device detonate. At the same time, this protective ensemble cannot significantly hinder their mobility or situational awareness.

There are no performance standards for EOD PPE. This leads to uncertainty within the EOD community regarding the level of protection necessary, and the exact level of protection each bomb suit offers. Establishment of standardized test methods and minimum acceptable performance levels will ensure each suit used in response to a solicitation meets functional and survivability requirements. Along with a Purchasing Guide, the EOD PPE Standard will give the user community a reliable method for purchasing bomb suits and provide manufacturers with consistent test methods and equipment for developing and evaluating their products.

Objective:

Establish a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard containing minimum performance requirements and test methods for EOD PPE used by EOD technicians.

Project Team:

The U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center (NSC) is the technical program manager for this program with administrative management oversight coming from the National Institute for Standards and Technology - Office of Law Enforcement Standards (NIST-OLES). Other members include:

- National Institute of Justice
- National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board
- Joint Services EOD School
- University of Virginia -Center for Applied Biomechanics

Points of Contact

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Blast Testing, Hybrid III Manikin with EOD PPE

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